

## Kabarti-Sharaa exchange views

BARCELONA (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said Tuesday he had a lengthy meeting with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa on differences between Jordan and Syria. Describing the meeting as good and objective, Mr. Kabarti said the two sides were able to exchange views on differences which surfaced between the two countries, after Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel last year. "We decided to build on points of agreement and to work hard to prevent points of disagreement on several very simple issues to add to the differences," Mr. Kabarti said. "The positive content and conciliatory tone" of the speeches delivered by the foreign ministers of Syria and Israel at the Euro-Mediterranean conference, Mr. Kabarti also voiced support of European proposals, as presented by France. He said the Israeli side showed flexibility and readiness to offer a new initiative in the peace negotiations between the Jewish state and Syria and that the Syrian response to Israel was very positive.

# Jordan Times

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## EU, Mediterranean countries agree to widen cooperation

Barcelona Declaration sets out clear mechanisms, parameters for strengthened regional interaction

Combined agency dispatches

MINISTERS FROM the European Union (EU) and its Mediterranean neighbours on Tuesday overcame persistent problems and adopted a landmark cooperation pact at the end of the Barcelona conference.

The closed-door session was delayed by more than two hours as EU negotiators held last-minute talks to resolve a row between Israel and Syria over the declaration's clauses on terrorism and nuclear weapons (see separate story).

But no country used its right to voice reservations when the document was read out in the closing ceremony.

Spanish Foreign Minister

## Document adopted after solving row on definition of terrorism

From Ghaila Ahl in Barcelona

THE NON-CONTENTIOUS definition of terrorism narrowly overcame the problem in the final Barcelona Declaration which was issued by foreign ministers of 12 Mediterranean and the 15 European Union (EU) countries Sunday afternoon.

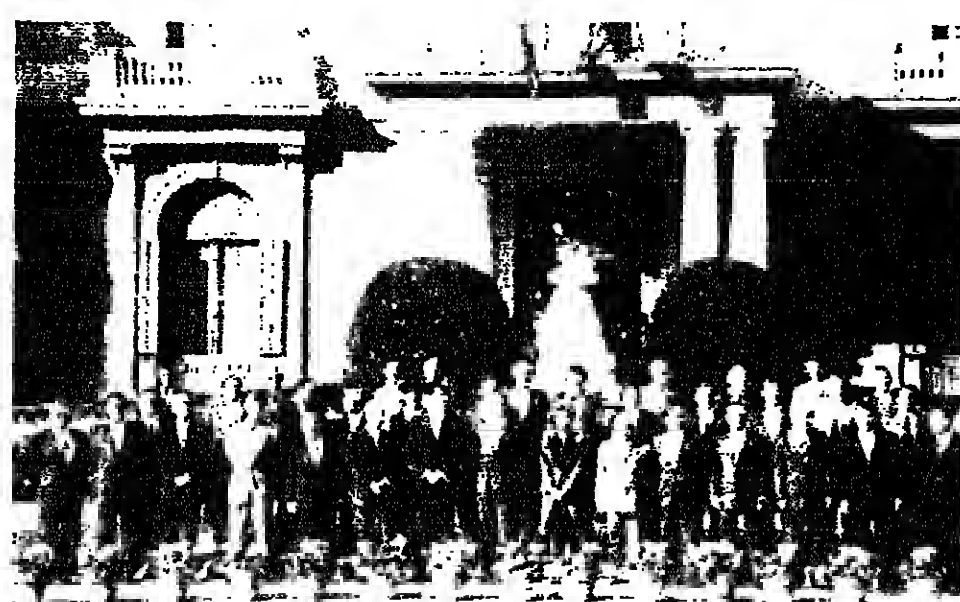
The declaration stated that "fighting terrorism will have to be a priority for all parties."

To strengthen cooperation among police, judicial and

other authorities, it said, officials will meet periodically and will consider stepping up exchange of information and improving extradition procedures.

These meetings, however, "will be organised with due regard for the need for a differentiated approach that takes into account the diversity of the situation in each country."

Unlike other issues which won a consensus by all parties, terrorism was regarded



Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and foreign ministers of 26 European Union and Mediterranean countries which participated in the Barcelona conference which ended Tuesday (AFP photo)

## Euro-Med conference reflected MENA summit efforts - Regent

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday described the European Mediterranean conference, which concluded in Barcelona Tuesday, as an extension of "the collective effort of the 63 nationalities which contributed to the success of the Amman economic summit."

Speaking after chairing a

Cabinet session, Prince Hassan said he was able during his recent visit to Luxembourg to get familiarised with developments in the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue.

Prince Hassan, who was briefed at the session by Finance Minister Basel Jaradat on the 1996 draft fiscal budget, commended the economic reform programme

and said the Kingdom was on the right track in restructuring its economy.

International evaluation of this restructuring programme, the Prince said, attests to the fact that "we reached the threshold of spending without resorting to foreign expenditures."

The Regent said he was hopeful that the government would be able to strike a balance between the available resources and the needs of citizens and ministries.

"I believe, thank God, that we are on the right track, but what is important is to explain such matters to citizens, and I am fully confident in the council of ministers in this regard."

Prince Hassan told the press after the meeting that it

was difficult for him to judge the draft fiscal budget, adding that it will be discussed extensively in the coming few days.

Before the start of the Cabinet session, Prince Hassan had a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and discussed with him "a number of important issues," Jordan Television reported.

JTV said the meeting focused on the fiscal budget.

Mr. Jaradat told the Crown Prince that the budget was the outcome of five years of continued efforts in implementing the economic reform programme.

He said this budget does not include any deficit when foreign assistance is taken into consideration.

## King thanks government and people

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday expressed thanks and appreciation to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the Cabinet ministers for their congratulations and best wishes on his 60th birthday.

In a cable, King Hussein thanked the prime minister and the government for their continuous concern to advance the country's democratic march and uphold the message of the Great Arab Revolt, and stressed his commitment to safeguard the country's



(Continued on page 7)

## Sharif Zeid reaffirms respect for opinion but not association politics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker reaffirmed Tuesday that the government is not against anyone who harbours views different from its own but it does not approve of the professional associations deviating from its mandate and real objectives.

Stressing that the associations will continue to be free in a free country, he said this concept constitutes the basis of the government's policies.

But he added that unions should direct their attention to the development of union work and to raising the standard of their members.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with a group of engineers from Maan Gov-

ernate, Sharif Zeid said the government "does not accept a situation in which union leaders exploit union activities as a means to achieve political gains; nor will the government allow unionists to import and adopt political views from outside Jordan."

"We can not allow anyone to harm or offend or belittle the achievements of the Kingdom, which had faced hardships and was able, under His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and through the efforts of Jordanian people, to overcome the problems and to build a model state inspired in their efforts and their endeavours by the principles enshrined in the

(Continued on page 7)

## Katyushas, car-bomb, Israeli warning hike Lebanon tension

TYRE (Agencies) — Hizbollah guerrillas rained a barrage of Katyusha rockets on northern Israel on Tuesday wounding eight people and causing heavy damage in the most serious attack in six months.

Israeli warplanes retaliated by hitting Katyusha launch pad sites in South Lebanon.

A senior Hizbollah official was meanwhile killed in a car bombing blamed on Israel.

The attacks triggered warning from Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to Syria.

"We have warned the Syrians and we will draw our own conclusions from the situation that has been created," the new prime minister said.

He said the new prime minister and defence minister told journalists as he toured Kiryat Shmona, the main target of the attacks.

"We know that there is a

Syrian military presence in Lebanon and believe that Damascus must act to put the brakes on Hizbollah."

Nine salvos of rockets crashed into the border region and caused serious damage and caused serious damage to the town of Kiryat Shmona, in a strike claimed by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah to avenge Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

He said the rocket attacks were contrary to Syrian calls for peace. Damascus has signalled in the past week that it is ready to resume negotiations which broke down in June.

"We consider what the Hizbollah did yesterday and today as very serious. The aim was to kill people. Fortunately there were no victims, but it was still extremely serious," Mr. Peres said.

"Israel will act on its part to ensure its security."

"Hizbollah has decided to

play with fire... Once more it has shown that there is no government worthy of the name in Lebanon able to deal with the essential questions of security," Mr. Peres said.

"Israel's warnings to Damascus are usually transmitted via the United States," he said. "Israel is not interested in any escalation either verbal or in any other way."

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan called on Syria and Lebanon to exert pressure on the Hizbollah to stop the attacks.

"We demand that the Syrians and the Lebanese act immediately to end these attacks, as Israel renews its efforts to relaunch the discussions with Syria."

Earlier, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak had cleared Syria of blame saying:

(Continued on page 7)

## Israelis rocket W. Bank house to kill Palestinian

DEIR SAMIT, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Israeli troops on Tuesday killed a member of the militant wing of Hamas firing an anti-tank rocket at his West Bank hide-out after a siege, military and Palestinian sources said.

Abdul Karim Massalmeh, 38, a leading member of the Izzedin Al Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas, had been wanted by the security services, Israeli radio said.

The house in the village of Deir Samit near the West Bank town of Hebron was destroyed by an anti-tank rocket fired by the Israeli soldiers, and Massalmeh's body was found in the ruins.

Massalmeh had been accused of seriously wounding an Israeli soldier on May 7 and of killing several Palestinians whom he suspected of being Israeli collaborators, an army spokesman said.

"He did not respond to our orders. So we evacuated all the neighbouring houses and opened fire," he said.

Massalmeh had tried to flee the scene after being spotted by soldiers who surrounded the house and brought in bulldozers, after sealing the area at dawn, the army said.

The Israeli military has led a relentless manhunt to track down members of the Izzedin Al Qassam.

Massalmeh was the 11th militant from the group to be killed in the Hebron region, a Hamas stronghold, since the start of the year. Soldiers

have often used anti-tank rockets to pummel their hide-outs.

The Israeli army is due to evacuate six Palestinian towns on the West Bank before the end of the year to allow self-rule elections to take place in January. But troops are to keep posts in Hebron to protect 400 settlers.

Police in Kalkilya

A convoy of the first 15 armed Palestinian police officers arrived in Kalkilya Tuesday to help prepare for the spread of self-rule and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank town.

Dressed in olive-green military uniforms and armed with pistols and assault rifles, the 15 arrived in Kalkilya from the self-ruled enclave of Jericho on board six Palestinian military vehicles and two jeeps, witnesses said.

They held immediate talks with Israeli military leaders to prepare for the troop withdrawal and deployment of Palestinian police after 28 years of occupation.

General Ziad Al Atrash, a Palestinian representative of the joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee, said the withdrawal would be completed by Dec. 12.

Some 400 Palestinian police will eventually take control of the town of 30,000 residents just one kilometre

## Colonies could be annexed - Beilin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli minister said on Tuesday he was in favour of annexing major areas on the West Bank where the largest Jewish settlements are based.

Yossi Beilin, a minister without portfolio entrusted with helping to steer the peace negotiations, said the next round of talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could lead to an annexation of the largest West Bank settlements.

The two sides are due to open talks in May on the final status of the territories and East Jerusalem.

But Mr. Beilin warned the Palestinians had to "take account of the reality on the ground" in the West Bank where some 140,000 settlers live.

"As part of the framework for the final status of the occupied territories I believe we can reach an accord where the majority of the settlers will stay in the settlements. The regions where they live will be annexed by Israel and will become part of the territory under Israel's sovereignty," he told the radio.

(Continued on page 7)

## Wasfi Tal remembered as visionary, pragmatist

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There is no doubt that the policies of former Prime Minister Wasfi Tal might not have been appreciated in the 1960s, or were even abhorred and dismissed by certain factions as anti-Palestinian. However, Palestinians and Jordanians agree that he was a man of vision.

"Twenty four years have passed after the martyrdom of Wasfi Tal... but he is still remembered as a man of free and outspoken mind," said Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, at a national seminar attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, former prime ministers, senators, deputies, and a host of Jordanian politicians and ordinary people.

Mr. Lawzi's comments were followed by speeches by Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh and several other senators and university professors who revealed, in their short studies on the life of the



Wasfi Tal

prime minister, who was assassinated in Cairo in 1971, the different sides to the controversial figure who made a significant impact on Jordan's future and Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

While some researchers saw Mr. Tal's thought and policies as highly rigid, especially in terms of human rights and democracy or even the Palestinian issue, others described him as a man who had fervently fought in favour of the Palestinian

cause but who was misunderstood.

"He fought with his pen. But he also engaged in the battle and was wounded for the sake of Palestine," professor Ghazi Rabab'ah said.

"His role in the 1970 events is controversial in the sense that it was not decided whether it had negative or positive impact on the Palestinian cause... But his political thought was completely in favour of the Palestinian issue."

Wasfi Tal was born in 1919 in Diyarbakir in southern Turkey to a Jordanian poet and man of letters. He studied at the Salt secondary school in Jordan and pursued higher education at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in physics and chemistry. But he showed tremendous interest in philosophy and history, his contemporaries say.

The late prime minister worked as a teacher in Karak and Salt and joined the British army in 1942. In 1947, he joined the Salvation Army that was formed in Syria. He

(Continued on page 7)

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## Former Afghan president leaves rebel alliance

PESHAWAR (R) — A former Afghan president has resigned from a rebel alliance he led, accusing colleagues of holding secret contacts with the Afghan government, party sources said on Tuesday.

The sources, quoted by the Afghan Islamic Press, said Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, who was president for a few months after the overthrow of communist president, Najibullah in April 1992, had quit as head of the four-party Supreme Coordination Council.

A spokesman for the opposition Hezb-e-Islami faction said alliance members were to hold emergency talks in the Pakistani city of Peshawar later on Tuesday to discuss the resignation.

Sources in Mojaddidi's small Jabha-e-Nijat-e-Milli party said he had been angered by reports that alliance members had held secret talks with the Kabul government led by President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief Ahmad Shah Masood.

The sources said Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Masood were trying to persuade opposition factions to join them against Taliban militia which has been besieging Kabul since early September.

They said Kabul government emissaries had held separate talks with Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Abdul Karim Khalili, leader of the Shari'at Muslim Hezb-e-Wahdat faction, and had made overtures to former communist warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Hezb-e-Islami spokesman Ustad Saeed told Reuters that the alliance had asked Mr. Mojaddidi's younger brother Hashmatullah to try to convince the elderly leader to change his mind.

"The charge that Masood's envoy met Hekmatyar is baseless," Mr. Saeed said. "There have been insignificant contacts with Rabbani officials at a lower level in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad."

How can we talk with someone who is collapsing? "We hope Mojaddidi will not leave the alliance at this difficult time," Mr. Saeed added.

Afghan government officials said on Monday they were in touch with opposition factions, but did not state the outcome.

U.N. officials also say the Kabul government has been engaged in intensive diplomacy to try to enlist its foes in the fight against the Taliban.

Gen. Dostum said last month that he was resisting pressure from Uzbekistan, Russia and Iran to ally with the government to thwart the advancing religious student militia.



Supporters of an unidentified candidate for Wednesday's parliamentary elections in Egypt clap and shout slogans from a pick-up truck cruising through a Cairo street during a campaign tour (AFP photo)

## The camel races against the car in Egyptian parliamentary elections

CAIRO (AFP) — When Egyptians go to the polls on Wednesday for legislative elections, many of them will not be fought-over campaign symbols.

Each of the 4,040 candidates assigned to him to allow the largely illiterate population to recognise their favourite on the ballot.

But after the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) snapped up what are considered the two best symbols — the crescent moon and the camel — for its candidates, opposition parties cried foul.

Opposition leaders in the race then struck deals to ensure the best of the remaining symbols for themselves, Suleiman Shafiq, a member of an independent watchdog team, told AFP.

Thus, the head of the liberal Wafd took a car, the leader of the Marxist Tagammu got a boat and the Islamist Labour Party president a star.

But the state commission that distributes the signs "exploits them politically, for example by giving the Islamic

candidate Adel Hussein the gun symbol as a hint at Muslim militants," Mr. Shafiq said. The symbols are supposed to be dealt from a set list by order of the candidate's registration in their district.

Amid criticism of the NDP monopoly on the crescent and camel, which top the list, the Interior Ministry passed instructions mid-way through the campaign that candidates could change symbols if they wished.

Hopefuls seek to avoid mundane items that voters might mock, such as the fish, the pail or the coffee pot.

Another sensitive sign is the bicycle, which in some forms of Egyptian slang means "homosexual."

Muslim Brotherhood candidate Ahmad Seif Al Islam Hassan Al Banna said he delayed his registration to get a good symbol: "I would have got the fish. I cannot be represented by a fish."

He finally received the scales — "of justice," he said.

"No doubt the symbols and their order affect the choice of uneducated voters who are used to considering the best comes at the top of the list," Ahmad Naji, an expert with the Al Ahram Centre for Political Studies, said.

Egypt's illiteracy rate is estimated at 50 per cent, according to government statistics.

"The government monopolised the two top symbols and so seem unified, while the opposition must make a lot of effort to have people know their symbols," Mr. Naji said.

He pointed out that the Nasserist Party has more than 40 candidates who are represented by 18 different symbols.

"Before the 1952 Revolution, peasants knew the parties by their leaders, such as Saad Zaghlul of the Wafd and Mustapha Kamel of the National Party," Mr. Shafiq said.

Mohammad Al Sakbawi, a Labour Party official, called for a reform in the symbols

system first created in 1976, saying "each party should be given a permanent symbol which it can choose itself to guarantee equal chances."

When the multi-party system was officially adopted in 1984, each party did have a symbol: the crescent for the NDP, the date palm for the Wafd, the watch for the Tagammu and the star for Labour.

The crescent moon, a symbol of Islam, is also significant for voters because it and the cross were symbols of the 1919 Revolution "representing the unity of Muslims and Christians against British occupation," Mr. Naji said.

The date palm is a common poetic symbol for nobility and tradition.

But Mr. Naji said in the end symbols were not the opposition's main problem in attracting voters.

He blamed "the parties' failure to put forward clearly distinguished platforms and slogans to face the NDP, whose candidates can lean on the government's accomplishments."

## 3 Iraqi generals, official face trial for graft

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Three Iraqi generals and a doctor working in the Interior Ministry will stand trial for "corruption and abuse of power," official newspapers said Tuesday.

The four accused of "using their jobs to obtain land, acquire private vehicles and extort money" were ordered Monday to stand trial following an inquiry by a parliamentary committee on corruption, they added.

President Saddam Hussein has urged government employees to denounce their superiors, even ministers, if they suspect corruption, as U.N. economic sanctions weigh down the country.

Parliament's new speaker Abdul Baki Abdul Karim Al Saadoun, told the official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper that "The Iraqi courts will have their word to say about all those who use their positions to embezzle public funds."

Mr. Saadoun, who replaced Saadi Mahdi Saleh who died in hospital on Nov. 19, asked MPs to "place the public interest above any other consideration during the debate about such questions in order to safeguard Iraqi society."

The chairman of the anti-corruption committee, Khaled Al Saeidi, said his colleagues "heard several witnesses and examined documents for more than two months as part of their investigation."

President Saddam referred the case of the four to the Iraqi National Assembly for examination, the papers reported.

"They have illegally possessed plots of land, various cars and finance using their posts," Al Jumhuriyah reported.

The four officials are Major-General Najmuddin Al Naqshabandi, Major-General Waa'd Mohammad Suleiman, Major-General Hatim Ali Khalaf and Dr. Majid Khorsbid.

Gen. Naqshabandi was previously deputy interior minister.

**'No rights improvement'**

Iraqis still endure arbitrary arrests, amputations and other state-sponsored human rights abuses, according to a U.N. report published Monday.

Despite amnesty laws in July aimed at commuting death sentences to life in prison and other penal reforms, the report said there "are no signs of improvement in the general situation of human rights in Iraq."

"In the absence of far greater change in the legal and political order of Iraq, especially the abrogation of repressive laws quelling freedoms of thought, information, expression and assembly, the amnesty laws have had little impact, said Max van der Stoep, who conducted the report."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel seeks port-based Palestinian's help

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel on Tuesday proposed for the first time that a Palestinian official be based at the Mediterranean port of Ashdod to boost the flow of goods in and out of the territories, military officials said. An official from the Palestinian National Authority would help lift hurdles which have hampered the export of Palestinian goods and the import of products destined for sale in the West Bank and self-ruled Gaza Strip through the southern port. It is the first time the Israel has proposed that a Palestinian Authority official be based on its territory. But the idea was criticised by a right-wing deputy, Moshe Katsav, from the opposition Likud party, who told Israeli radio it could endanger Israel's security. He said he would call for a parliamentary debate on the issue. Israel imposes strict restrictions on goods entering its territory destined for the Palestinians, citing security reasons.

### Police free one of two Gaza editors

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police on Tuesday freed one of two editors of Muslim fundamentalist newspapers in Gaza detained the previous day, after 12 hours of questioning, his colleagues said. Alsa Saffawi, editor of Al Iqtida which is close to Islamic Jihad, was detained late Monday. He was questioned over an article calling for the Palestinian National Authority to free another worker on the paper, Izzedin Al Sharif, and denouncing his "arbitrary" arrest on Nov. 3. But police did not release the director of the Hamas weekly Al Watan, Ghazi Hamad, detained along with Mr. Saffawi. No reason has been given for his arrest. Both the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad are opposed to the peace process and have claimed several attacks on Israelis which have left dozens dead in the past two years since the launch of autonomy. Mr. Arafat has launched an attempt at reconciliation with Hamas, demanding that it give up the armed struggle and take part in the Palestinian self-rule elections due in January. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have so far said they would boycott the polls.

### Israel, Mauritania launch diplomatic ties

BARCELONA (AFP) — Israel and Mauritania signed an agreement to launch diplomatic ties on Monday on the sidelines of a Euro-Mediterranean conference here. They agreed to open interest sections in Tel Aviv and Nouakchott, to be based in the Spanish embassies in the two capitals. Morocco was previously the only Arab Maghreb country to have recognised the Jewish state, though Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak held talks here with his Tunisian counterpart on Monday on the possibility of launching diplomatic ties.

### Gambling club owner shot dead in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — The owner of a gambling club was shot dead in the Cypriot capital in the latest of a series of underworld-related killings, police said Tuesday. Renos Pournaris, 38, was shot three times late Monday outside a cafe in the Nicosia suburb of Strovos as he tried to flee to his Mercedes, police and witnesses said. The victim's brother was killed last year when a bomb under his car exploded. According to police, Pournaris is the eighth victim this year of "debt being settled between" gangs that control nightclubs, gambling clubs and "massage centres" which have prospered on the Mediterranean island. Two explosions occurred in Cyprus last week, one in Nicosia which caused no injuries and another in the resort city of Larnaca that killed a 26-year-old man linked to a nightclub. The man was apparently preparing a bomb when it went off.

### Businessman killed in western Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — A Turkish businessman of Jewish origin was shot dead Tuesday in Bursa, western Turkey, by unknown attackers, police said. Nesim Malki, 43 and owner of a major textile company in Bursa, was killed while being driven from the airport to the city centre. His driver was unharmed. Police have opened an inquiry. The Anatolia news agency reported that an unidentified caller telephoned a police station and claimed Malki had been assassinated in revenge for the killing of Fathi Ali Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Islamic Jihad. Shaqaqi was gunned down in Malta in late October. Islamic Jihad accused Israeli agents of the murder and warned that it would retaliate. Another leading businessman of Jewish origin, Jak Kamhi, narrowly escaped an armed attack in Istanbul in February 1993. An Islamic fundamentalist organisation claimed responsibility for that attack.

### Earthquake jolts southwestern Iran

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area hit Iran's oil-producing province of Khuzestan on Monday evening, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Tuesday. It said the epicentre of the quake measured 4.6 on the Richter scale, which struck at 6:03 p.m. (1433 GMT), was 470 kilometres southwest of Tehran near Shushar and the oil town of Masjed Soleyman. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, IRNA added.

### N. Cyprus court extends detention of Greek Cypriot

NICOSIA (R) — A Turkish Cypriot military court on Tuesday extended for eight days the detention of a Greek Cypriot who drove across the buffer zone. Ioannis Apostolides has not yet been formally charged for the Nov. 16 incident, when he drove into Turkish-held land, apparently while drunk. A Greek Cypriot sentry is also being held in the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic after he crossed the buffer zone. George Karotsakis, who faces up to five years in prison for illegally entering a military zone, has said he went over to have a chat and a cigarette with the Turkish guards.

## Fez hat becomes an issue in Egyptian polls

CAIRO (AFP) — With campaigns to declare the fez the national hat or to reunify Egypt and Sudan, Egypt's tiny political parties are trying to make their voice heard in Wednesday's parliamentary election.

Small parties, mostly new and virtually unknown by the public, admit they have little chance in the race for the People's Assembly but their political stances, while unique and little heard, are certainly strongly held.

"We should have a huge national conference to come up with a national head covering. France has the beret, Israel has the kippa. It is a shame Egypt has no national hat," Ahmad Al Sabahi, head of the Umma Party, told AFP.

"I personally back the fez, but we could have several designers come up with some ideas, then put them to a popular referendum to choose," Mr. Sabahi, 80, said.

Mr. Sabahi, whose conical fez never leaves his head, has written numerous books on dream interpretation, horoscopes and "the

first book in Arabic on healing by pendulums." "I'm also an inventor. I created a new sport, Rock-ethball, which is better than handball or basketball. There is now a league for it, but I had to stop working with it to enter politics."

Mr. Sabahi created the Umma in 1983 and claims to have 65 candidates running in this year's vote. Aside from its hat platform, the self-described "moderate Islamic" Umma calls for the implementation of Islamic Sharia law in Egypt.

The Takaful party, founded in 1995 with 35 candidates, also calls for Sharia, but stresses the Islamic principle of "takaful" (mutual support).

Its president, Osama Shaltut, urges "a conference to strengthen takaful" by ending the 1,300-year-old schism between the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam to create a "single-sect Islam."

The tiny fringe parties share a number of characteristics, chief among them lack of funds and very mod-

est offices. The Social Justice Party (SJP) shares its cramped Cairo headquarters with the National Centre for Fighting AIDS.

The SJP office is also protected by two large German shepherd dogs, "Jack" and "Boosie," because its head Mohammad Abdul Al has received death threats from the armed militant Gamaa Al Islamiyah group.

"We are in the forefront of parties attacking fundamentalism and terrorism," Mr. Abdul Al said, adding that two of the six SJP candidates are running in the south Egypt town of Malawi, a Muslim militant hotbed.

The Gamaa vowed to kill Mr. Abdul Al for insulting its spiritual head Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, currently in prison in the U.S., after he wrote that the blind cleric once escaped Egyptian police by dressing as a woman.

The Unionist Democratic Party, created in 1990, has 16 candidates running on the platform of reunifying

Sudan and Egypt.

In July it began a legal action saying the 1953 decision to grant Sudan independence should be revoked as it was made without taking into account the opinion of the Egyptian public in a referendum.

Finally, the environmentalist Green Party has put six candidates in the race, but the party is hampered by the recent closure of its newspaper for lack of funds.

"We're working slowly but surely," the Green's treasurer, Ashari Abdul Gallil, said. "We're not hurried. It may take 50 years or even more. We're the party of the future."

"I don't expect any of our candidates to win considering government control of the vote," Mr. Sabahi said, urging the state not to interfere in elections.

"Of Course the government will cheat in the elections. If I were in power with the Umma Party, I would cheat too. That's why the state must stay out," he said.

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17:00 Fractals  
17:30 Jeopardy  
18:00 News in French  
18:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 Anything for a Laugh  
20:00 Amazing Races  
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:10 Star Trek  
22:00 News in English  
22:35 Prism  
22:45 Law and Order  
23:30 The Silk Road  
00:30 Comedy — Second Thought

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**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds easterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 2/15  
Amman 10/22  
Aqaba 10/22  
Deserts 0/17  
Jordan Valley 9/23

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 15 Aqaba 21, Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:  
Dr. Nidal Al As'ad 751672  
Dr. Yusef Al Faqih 790104  
Dr. Mazen Naji 630435  
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744683  
Fires pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336  
Al Asama pharmacy 637655  
Nasroukh pharmacy 626672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Simooni pharmacy 637660  
Nasroukh pharmacy 626672  
Najib pharmacy 847632

BRID:  
Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032  
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:  
Min./Max. temp. 2/15  
Amman 10/22  
Aqaba 10/22  
Deserts 0/17  
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## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upptower price in file per kg

Apple 700/500  
Banana 680  
Bunna (Mukammur) 620  
Cabbage 120/80  
Carrot 150/100  
Cauliflower 150/100  
Cucumbers (large) 150/100  
Cucumbers (small) 300/200  
Eggplant 170/120  
Garlic 700/500  
Grapes 700/500  
Grape Fruit 220/150  
Lemon 240/150  
Marrow (large) 120/80  
Marrow (small) 700/500  
Olives (green) 230/150  
Onion (dry) 230/150  
Orange 620/320  
Pepper (hot) 200/120  
Pepper (sweet) 200/120  
Potato 270/150  
Radish 120/80  
Spinach 160/100  
Spring Beans 600/400  
Thyme 270/150  
Tomato 270/150

## Other Flights (Terminal 1)

06:25 Agaba (add) (RJ)  
06:45 Rome (RJ)  
06:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
07:15 Berlin, London (RJ)  
07:35 Istanbul (RJ)  
07:55 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
08:15 Colombo (RJ)  
08:35 Beirut (RJ)  
08:55 Riyadh, Doha (RJ)  
09:15 Cairo (RJ)  
09:35 Agaba (RJ)  
09:55 New Delhi (RJ)  
10:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
10:35 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
10:55 Agaba (RJ)  
11:15 Agaba (RJ)

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (ME)  
08:15 London (RJ)  
08:45 Cairo (MS)  
09:15 Agaba (RJ)  
09:35 Abu Dhabi, Sharjah (PJ)  
09:55 Sharjah (AH)  
10:15 Agaba (RJ)  
10:35 Agaba (RJ)  
10:55 Agaba (RJ)  
11:15 Agaba (RJ)

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

09:50 Cairo (MS)



## Aqaba port development study completed

AMMAN (Petra) — Japanese and Jordanian officials Tuesday signed minutes of their discussions and studies on the development of the Aqaba port.

The minutes, signed at the Ministry of Transport, include main proposals presented by the ministries of energy and mineral resources and transport, as well as the Jordanian Port Corporation, the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company.

The minutes were signed by Dureid Mahasneh, director of the Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) and Guro Kanu, head of a Japanese team of technicians and experts who conducted the study.

The minutes include a primary study envisaging a plan for the development of the port to be carried out

until the year 2010 and provide for the purchase of heavy machinery and equipment for the new installations at the ports corporation. The minutes also provide for the expansion of the main docking areas for vessels as well as developing the containers harbour.

According to the study, the cost of carrying out this work will be around \$50 million.

A short term plan lasting until the year of 2000 was also outlined in the minutes. The plan proposes the development of the industrial harbour and the container zone at the cost of \$46 million.

A ports corporation official said that the two plans provide for expanding the wharf, and enlarging the storage space near the port. The Japanese team, which

is due to leave for home today, also Tuesday met Minister of Transport Samir Kassar and discussed two plans designed to cater to the expected increase in operations in Aqaba.

Mr. Kassar underlined the importance for Japanese Jordanian cooperation in transport fields and thanked the Japanese team which represents the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their efforts and the Japanese government for its continued assistance to the Kingdom in different fields.

The two sides discussed the objectives of both plans which are aimed at transforming Aqaba into a main regional port serving trade and transit operations and attracting vessels from around the world.

## Association to name attorneys to defend Bay'at Al Imam suspects

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Bar Association (JBA) is soon expected to forward names of six defence attorneys for 13 people accused of sabotage after their trial was postponed indefinitely in October because the defendants refused to appoint attorneys at the State Security Court, sources said.

The court postponed the case on Oct. 22, when some of the defendants refused to appoint attorneys and charged that some of "the attorneys were atheists," and did not believe in the court justice system. The

defendants said they will defend themselves, or "God would decide their fate."

The court then suspended the case indefinitely, saying it would contact the JBA to nominate six attorneys to defend the men on trial.

The defendants, who were expelled twice from court for disrupting the session belong to the radical Islamist group known as Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance). They are charged with slandering against His Majesty King Hussein and illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials.

Meanwhile, the State Security Court today will hear three cases.

One of the cases involved a group of six people, known as the "Islamic Revivalists," accused of sabotage. The court is expected to announce the jurisdiction over the case because over the past two months, defence attorneys and the prosecutor general argued over the court's right to adjudicate the case.

The attorneys charged that their clients should be tried in civil courts, while the state prosecutor general contested that the case was within his jurisdiction.

The group is charged with illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials, automatic weapons and guns for illicit

use, and belonging to an illegal organisation.

The second case to be determined by the State Court is that of two Jordanians involved in an attack on a French diplomat in February.

Again, attorneys for the defence contested the court's jurisdiction, demanding that the case be split between the State Court and the Criminal Court.

The attorneys' claim that the State Security court had no jurisdiction over cases of attempted murder.

The formal charges against Salem A. Jaradat and Ahmad Qassem, the defendants, include shoot-

ing and wounding French diplomat Gilles Heine in Wadi Mujib and plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing and manufacturing illegal arms.

The third case involves Muslim militant Atta Abu Rishteh, 53, accused of slandering against King Hussein in October.

Mr. Abu Rishteh, spokesman for the illegal Hezb Al Tahrir (Liberation Party), who confessed to slandering the King, could face up to three years' imprisonment if found guilty.

## Five awarded for thwarting robbery

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Chief Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan Tuesday awarded five citizens in Irbid for helping to abort an attempted robbery of their neighbour's house, officials said.

Brigadier General Hisham Ensour, Director of Irbid Police Department said that last week a gang of four people, in their mid-20s, planned to rob a 60-year-old man identified as Ibrahim A., who lived alone in Ashrafieh town of Irbid.

Brigadier Ensour told the Jordan Times that the men entered the house and tied Ibrahim up, and searched his house.

The victim's neighbours noticed that something wrong was happening in their neighbour's house "since he was seldom visit-

ed by anyone," according to Brig. Gen. Ensour.

"The five men approached Ibrahim's house, knocked on the door but no one answered. Minutes later, the four intruders came rushing out of the house," Brig. Gen. Ensour said.

He said that the five men went after the intruders, and caught up with three of them. He added that the fourth suspect, who fled to Amman, was arrested the following day.

According to the police official, all four suspects were employed and two of them had criminal records.

"I was surprised at these citizens' spirit which reflects their community awareness," Brig. Gen. Ensour added.

Musa Ahmad, Atef Saleh Mahmoud, Hassan Mahmoud Bani Fares and Majed Hassan Mahmoud.

Lieut. Gen. Udwan expressed his appreciation to the citizens on their courage.

In Amman, police Tuesday apprehended two suspects in connection with the attempted robbery of a shop and attacking the owner in Wasfi Tel Street Monday, official sources said.

The sources said that two suspects attacked Al Raed Money Exchange Shop and struck the owner in the head. The victim was identified by authorities only as A.N., adding that the assailants were unable to steal any money and fled the scene.

## Britain donates JD 25,000 for new kindergarten

AMMAN (J.T.) British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe Tuesday visited the Friends of Children Society at Hitin camp where the embassy has donated JD 25,000 in support of the construction of a kindergarten in the camp, according to a British embassy statement.

This income-generating project consists of three classrooms in addition to four commercial shops, donated by the Canadian embassy and a library, donated by Jordanians, the statement said.

This project will serve 100,000 children annually as well as provide employment opportunities. Construction is well underway;

completion of the KG section is expected in February of next year, while the expected date for the completion of the whole project is July 1996, according to the statement.

The statement said the ambassador visited the Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) clinic at the camp where he presented a check for the amount of JD 2,000 for the purchase of equipment for the X-ray unit at the Hitin clinic.

The embassy has been a long-time supporter of the clinic which serves both the refugees in Hitin camp and the people from the surrounding areas, the statement said.

## Mixed media exhibit carves paths into male psyche

By Fca Wabbeh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Darat Al Funun, of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, is hosting the works of Iraqi artist Ismail Fattah. As varied as sculptures, etchings and paintings, the exhibits are in mixed media, passing from bronze to acrylic and ink on paper and canvas.

The sculptures, mainly on the smaller size, are less of what the idea of sculpting is: carving away at unwanted material, and more of moulding and soldering piece over piece to make a whole.

Man is the subject of the bronze works. Prisoner in a box, headless, alone or with his dreams or with women, he is the master of the universe, or at least the artist's universe. It might not be flattering to women, but it is telling.

Almost deformed, sketchy and with no facial features, Fattah's men look rugged, anatomical, static and somehow defeated.

A homage to Picasso is rendered in his Photo of Picasso, an incomplete rectangle covering the torso, face and one thigh of a shape.

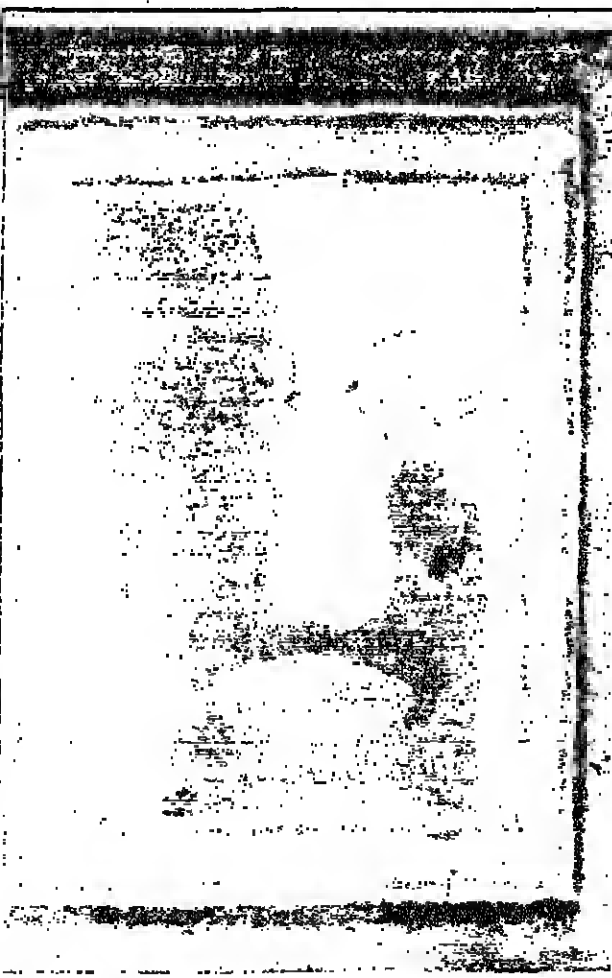
In Man and Mask, ironically it is the mask that looks human, with asymmetric but existing features, while the man's face is a contorted half with the other half a straight facet cut in golden bronze.

The statue is bigger this time, the hands holding the mask clenched in fists and the shaped part of the head almost hideous. Is the mask meant to hide his face? Is it meant to hide his identity and thoughts?

The Man with Women is a seated figure, hands on the knees, shoulders holding the torsos and heads of three stylised women whose salient point are the breasts. Erotic or motherly, one is left to ask and perhaps unable to answer.

That is not before the next group, that of Man and His Dreams, where a half whole, half hollowed man, seated again, has his dreams on a panel next to him etched in squares.

Apparently all he dreams of is women's faces, torsos and hearts. But while the



An acrylic on paper by Ismail Fattah

man's shape is vague, the dreams are clearly defined; the artist again plays with real and virtual reality, with upside down values and perceptions.

Headless Man is just that: a figure whose lower limbs form the forelegs of a frame he sits on and whose hands have become an integral part of his square-shaped body.

The Man in a Square has assumed bloating proportions, his body expanded and trying to pass through two crossing diagonal lines that seem to block his way. Doubly prisoner, he seems to also have doubled in size to escape his fate.

Dream-like and unreal, stylised to the point of being grotesquely deformed, the statues are epitomised in the form of Sisyphus whose plight is symbolised in a huge rock covering his head and part of his body, pushing him to an inclined position, struggling to overcome the mythological curse.

Departing from the

bronze sculptures, the artist's paintings are moody of faces and heads with features clearly defined in bright colours and usually in groups of two or many more.

Of mixed media, acrylic and ink on paper and canvas, the painted pairs are usually of a man and a woman (or more in some cases) and the many are simply titled: Nine Faces, Twelve Painted Faces or Seven Faces.

Very often the mask is present as if with the desire to hide true feelings or facial expressions behind it.

Two big-size canvases of pairs have a pigeon and a colourful cock respectively, but normally the paintings are of stark faces peering at the viewer from the frames, often framed themselves, again, by a mask.

The works often look like naive painting, but at times, voluptuously curved figures confirm the artistic potential of the author.

The exhibition is showing until Dec. 7.

## Actress Rashida Dajani passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — Rashida Dajani, a well-known and highly acclaimed Jordanian actress, passed away Monday at the age of 56 after 20 years of work in the field of theatre.

Ms. Dajani was a scriptwriter as well as actress.

Ms. Dajani also worked as a teacher for a while before joining the stage. She took part in a number of historical plays, including "Urwa Ibn Al Ward's Mother", in addition to

other theatre performances such as the immensely popular television series "Haret Abu Awwad".

Ms. Dajani, who was suffered from high blood pressure and diabetes, was taking part in a new series of "Haret Abu Awwad", in which she played the role of Um Awwad.

Jordanian stage artists Monday mourned Rashida Dajani as a pioneer in the field of theatre.



Rashida Dajani

### WHAT'S GOING ON

(Until Dec. 2).

#### PLAY

\* "A Report for an Academy" in Arabic at Yarmouk University.

#### LECTURE

\* "Peace from an Islamic Perspective" (in Arabic) by Dr. Abdul Aziz Khayyat at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6.00 p.m.

\* "La Vie de Rodin" (in French) by Nelly Lama at the Forte Grande Hotel at 4.00 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* Abstract art by Iraqi artist Samira Abdul Wahab at Ab'ad Art Gallery, Mecca Street (Until Dec. 2)

\* Plastic art by Abdul Raheem Wakid at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Anuman

**The editor and staff of the Jordan Times**

**mourn the passing of**

**Fatima Nsour**

**mother of their friend and colleague, Arab Hiyasat.**

**MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE**

## Minister returns from Bahrain visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad Tuesday returned to Amman from a visit to Bahrain and said he discussed cooperation and exchange in security matters as well as expertise.

During the three-day visit, Mr. Hammad said he met with the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifeh, the heir apparent Sheikh Hamad Ben Issa and Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifeh, the interior minister.

Discussions also covered the training of personnel in courses to be held in the

two countries and coordination of Jordanian and Bahraini positions during the Arab Ministers of Interior Council meetings.

The minister said the discussions were characterised by a friendly spirit reflecting the ties between the two countries as well as regional and international questions of concern to both sides.

Mr. Hammad was accompanied on the three-day visit by a senior officer from the Public Security Department and two other senior officials from the Ministry of Interior.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

##### "INVITATION TO TENDER"

##### WADI ARABA DEEP AQUIFER STUDY, JORDAN

##### BOREHOLE DRILLING AND TESTING

The Jordan Valley Authority, Ministry of Water and Irrigation invites experienced international and Jordanian drilling contractors to submit their offers for drilling and testing two deep boreholes, each of 1250m±25% in Wadi Araba.

The project is financed by a grant secured from the Arab Fund for Social and Economical Development and Islamic Bank for Development.

Tender documents are available and may be examined and purchased from;

**Jordan Valley Authority, Ministry of Water and Irrigation**  
**Tenders and Procurement Department**  
**P.O. Box: 2769**  
**Amman - Jordan**

**Tel.: 962 6 689400**  
**Fax: 962 6 689916**

The non-refundable fund for each set of Tender documents is JD 150 and may be purchased as of November 22, 1995.

A pre-bid conference and site visit will be organised for the prospective Tenderers on Tuesday 12 December, 1995.

Bids are due no later than 12:00 hours, Jordan local time, on Sunday 27 January, 1996, to the office of the Tenders and Procurement Department, Jordan Valley Authority.

**Eng. Hashem Al-Shboul**  
**Secretary General**  
**Jordan Valley Authority**



## U.K. dampens talk of imminent Northern Ireland peace deal

LONDON (R) — Britain dampened speculation Tuesday of a breakthrough in the stalled Northern Ireland peace process in time for a visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

A senior British official said that Prime Minister John Major had a useful 30-minute telephone conversation with Irish Prime Minister John Bruton Monday evening and that the two men might confer again later Tuesday.

But he ruled out rumours emanating from Dublin that the two prime ministers, trying to break a deadlock over terms for all-party political talks on Northern Ireland's future, might issue a joint declaration later Tuesday.

The optimism was fuelled in part by a report in

Dublin's Irish Times, which said there had been "intensive discussions" overnight involving the Irish and British governments, Clinton administration officials and Sinn Féin, the IRA's political arm.

Irish Radio added that a new wave of optimism had surfaced in Washington overnight and that Mr. Clinton was being regularly briefed.

The British official said civil servants from both governments were still locked in an almost continuous exchange of views.

But he said Mr. Major's downing street office had not been in contact overnight with the Clinton administration.

"Work continues, that's obvious. But I can't tell you

when we can bring that work to a conclusion," the official said.

He said the British government did not feel impelled to strike a deal in time for Mr. Clinton's visit.

The U.S. president arrives in London Wednesday and will spend Thursday in Northern Ireland and Friday in Ireland.

Irish officials, displaying distinctly more optimism than their British counterparts, said progress had been made toward ending a logjam that has stalled the path to permanent peace since guerrilla truces began 16 months ago.

"The prevailing wind is a positive one at the moment but there are still some things to be resolved which will require some further

work today," one official said in Dublin.

The impasse is over the vexed question of scrapping the weapons with which Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas waged a 25-year-old war against British rule in Northern Ireland until they called a truce on Aug. 31, 1994. The IRA's pro-British extremist Protestant foes matched the ceasefire soon after.

Britain insists on an arms handover before Sinn Féin is given a ticket to the talks.

Ireland wants preliminary all-party talks to run in parallel to the work of an outside panel of experts that would adjudicate on the timing and logistics of guerrilla disarmament.

## EU to seek remedy to trade in flesh

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union (EU) will this week attack a scourge which is fast becoming as lucrative as the international drugs trade, but twice as difficult to fight — trafficking in women.

A two-day conference organised by the European Commission, starting Friday, will seek solutions to a growing traffic that leaves police forces in the 15-nation bloc baffled.

"It's the first time a spotlight has been put on this problem," a spokeswoman for Anita Gradin, the commissioner for justice and home affairs, said Monday.

Since frontiers between Eastern and Western Europe were relaxed earlier this decade, women from the East have fast replaced women from the developing world as prey for the prostitution racket.

Faced with poverty and unemployment at home, they are being tempted to richer, Western European countries to work as barmaids, dancers, hostesses and hairdressers only to be forced one way or another into prostitution on arrival.

Most of them are under 25 and many are only 15-18 years old, according to the

Geneva-based International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which helped organise the conference.

"I am looking for hostesses and dancers for Swiss night clubs. Work permit, contract, outstanding pay. Call me," reads a typical advertisement in the Hungarian daily "Expressz".

"The violence and exploitation endured by these women often goes beyond the exploitation suffered by other trafficked migrants," the IOM said in a report.

"The full scale of the problem remains unknown, however, because few women are prepared or able to report what has happened to them to the police," it says.

The problem is largely that while drugs and drug smugglers are seized, the women concerned are usually sent home before they have a chance to speak and many are afraid to speak for fear of their families back home finding out.

When combined with illegal immigration in general the trafficking is as lucrative as the drugs trade, but traffickers find it much easier to slip the net.

"High profits can be made

by forcing women into prostitution since the risks for the traffickers are not great... Sentences against traffickers are light, and there are few successful convictions," the IOM report said.

Willy Bruggeman, a senior policeman at the Hague-based European police agency, Europol, told Reuters in a recent interview trafficking posed a new challenge for police.

"Immigration is quite a complicated business, more complicated than drugs. There are changing trends, new ethnic groupings, new smuggling techniques. It's not clear what are the legal tools to combat it," he said.

"I'm talking about mafia type networks."

The Dutch authorities say the prostitution racket is increasingly controlled by groups from Eastern Europe.

"They are highly organised, extremely violent," the IOM said. "There are reports Western brothel keepers find themselves under increasing pressure from organised gangs based in the (Eastern European) countries to hire Eastern European women."

## Ruling party scores big win in Ivory Coast elections

ABIDJAN (R) — The ruling Democratic Party has scored a landslide victory in Ivory Coast's second multi-party general election, maintaining its post-independence stranglehold on power in the west African nation.

The main opposition parties managed to salvage some dignity, slightly increasing their representation in parliament after dropping a poll boycott that triggered bloody political and ethnic clashes during the October presidential election.

But presidential hopeful Francis Wodje, who broke ranks with his opposition allies in October only to suffer a crushing defeat at the hands of ruling party leader Henri Konan Bedie, suffered the double indignity of losing his seat in parliament.

"Unlike the presidential elections during which the active boycott call from the opposition parties caused unprecedented material and human losses for our country, polling took place in a spirit of calm, peace and conviviality," Interior Minister Emile Constant Bombet told a news conference Monday.

Sunday's election was the second of three this year in Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer which is hoping to capitalise on a reputation for stability to attract foreign investment and boost its economy.

The polls end with Dec. 17 municipal elections and are the second since the advent of multi-party politics in 1990.

Official results, released Monday night, gave the ruling party 145 in the 175 seats in the new National Assembly — the first elected since the death in 1993 of the nation's founding father Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

The Rally Of the Republicans (RDR), formed by disenchanted ruling party members after Mr. Bedie took over on Mr. Houphouët-Boigny's death, won at least 15 seats in its first electoral test — principally in the mainly Muslim north.

The Ivory Popular Front (FPI), which spearheaded the campaign that forced Mr. Houphouët-Boigny to accept multi-party politics in 1990, won nine seats.

But its candidates still had hopes of winning in four seats around the populous outlying suburbs and three seats where the government postponed polling on security grounds — including the one held by party leader Laurent Gbagbo.

The government has said polling will take place in the three seats around the FPI stronghold of Gagnoa when migrant farmers from Mr. Bedie's Baoule tribe feel it is safe to return.



An undated file photo shows troops of Japan's Ground Self Defence force marching during an annual military parade. Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama vowed to adopt a new defence plan despite a coalition rift (AFP photo)

## Murayama vows to adopt new defence plan despite coalition rift

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama vowed Tuesday to adopt a new defence policy outline by the end of the day, despite a rift within the ruling coalition over the issue of banning arms exports.

The country's first defence policy outline in two decades envisages a more streamlined military in the post cold war era, with 20 per cent fewer troops or around 145,000, down from the current ceiling of 180,000.

The coalition government agreed to the cut in military personnel last week and Jiji Press reported Tuesday that the three parties had also reached an agreement on the wording of a clause calling for the abolition of nuclear arms.

Under the agreement, the parties agreed to delete the word "ultimate" from a clause on the abolition of nuclear weapons. Instead, the new wording says Japan will make "steady and realistic" efforts to achieve the same goal, Jiji said.

The agreement reportedly left arms exports as the major sticking point.

Under three principles adopted in 1967, Japan prohibits exports of arms to Communist countries, countries embargoed by the

United Nations and countries involved in military conflict or likely to be involved in the near future.

The conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the biggest party in the coalition, has so far rejected demands by its two smaller coalition partners to include the three principles in the defence policy outline.

LDP sources were quoted as saying that they were responding to the wishes of Japanese defence contractors, which want the possibility of exports left open in preparation for the launch of joint arms production with the United States.

Japan's major defence contractors include Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., Toshiba Corp. and NEC Corp.

Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party and the centrist New Party Sakigake reportedly want the principles included in the defence policy outline.

At a meeting with selected cabinet ministers Tuesday, Mr. Murayama agreed that a compromise should be reached by the end of the day, officials said.

Others attending the special meeting included International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro

Hashimoto, who is also president of the LDP, and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, the head of Sakigake. Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Defence Agency Director General Seishiro Eto also attended.

"I don't want to change the basis of the three principles. But whether to include them into the outline is another matter," Mr. Hashimoto was quoted telling a news conference after the meeting.

"I think the three principles are something that should not be included in the outline."

Ironically, it was Mr. Hashimoto's own party and industry which gave birth to the three principles on exporting arms.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry laid down the prohibitions in 1962 following increases in Japanese arms exports to Asian countries.

Five years later, then Prime Minister Eisaku Sato presented the three principles to parliament as the government's official policy.

In 1976, another LDP prime minister, Takeo Miki, expressed reluctance to export arms to other countries as well.

## U.S. envoy meets Bangladeshi premier; Washington calls for solution to standoff

DHAKA (AFP) — The United States Tuesday called on political parties here to show "creativity and flexibility" in resolving a 19-month standoff ahead of controversial general elections set for early next year.

"The U.S. government continues to urge both the government of Bangladesh and the opposition to resolve their differences," said a statement issued here by the United States Information Service.

Only thus could "free, fair and fully contested elections... be held in a peaceful and timely fashion."

The statement expressed hope that both sides "will demonstrate the creativity and flexibility needed to overcome a lengthy political stalemate that threatens the democratic process and undermines economic progress."

The statement came the day after U.S. Ambassador David Merrill met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for just over an hour to discuss the current situation, the Bhorer Kagoj and other dailies reported.

Political commentator Ataus Samad attacked the U.S. statement saying it "undermines the

respectability of politicians (and) Bangladeshis."

He added the statement was "premature" as the two sides could still reach a negotiated settlement.

Chowdhury Rafiqul Ahmar, a professor with Dhaka University's International Relations Faculty, said the statement stemmed from U.S. frustration. As a major aid donor the United States wanted "proper elections to ensure stability," he added.

Although a U.S. embassy source here earlier Tuesday described the meeting as a routine "courtesy call," the Bhorer Kagoj quoted an unidentified senior government minister as saying the meeting was "important."

A diplomatic source said discussions were moving in the right direction because "something, some sort of solution" to the crisis has to be found.

The talks came three days after President Abdur Rahman Biswas dissolved the parliament and asked Mrs. Zia to continue as the interim prime minister until general elections, which constitutionally must be held within 90 days.

Opposition groups led by the Awami League's Sheikh Hasina Wajed welcomed

the dissolution, but have reiterated their demand that elections be held under a neutral caretaker administration.

They insist free polls are impossible under Mrs. Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and have threatened to boycott the polls if their demands are not met.

Ambassador Merrill also met Mrs. Hasina last week, raising hopes in some quarters that the United States was prepared to mediate between the two sides.

Ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party sources said Mrs. Zia would soon reply to a letter sent by Mrs. Hasina containing the opposition demands.

The two women leaders spoke on the telephone late Sunday to discuss the crisis. Although there was no immediate breakthrough, their first conversation since March 1994 was greeted with optimism.

The opposition resigned en masse from the 330-member parliament to push their demands for Mrs. Zia's resignation and polls under a caretaker government. Mrs. Zia shunned the demands as "unconstitutional."

## Brazil studies zeppelin patrol for Amazon

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian officials are studying the possibility of using zeppelins to patrol the Amazon rain forest, state-owned news agency Agencia Brasil reported. Officials from the transport, air force and environment ministries would discuss the plan Tuesday, it said. Under the proposal, zeppelins would guard the Amazonian frontiers, carry goods and passengers and monitor any kind of emergency in the vast jungle. The agency quoted Joseb Seixas Lourenco, secretary of state for the Amazon, as saying airships had been used in Brazil during World War I.

## Onion fair attracts thousands

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — An onion fair dating back more than 500 years attracted tens of thousands of people to the Swiss capital Monday. Tourists and locals crowded medieval streets where more than 700 brightly-coloured stalls displayed some 80.3 metric tonnes of onions, twisted into plaits and garlands or depicting faces, and figures. Also on sale were the traditional onion and cheese tarts and candy. According to legend, the market commemorates the help given by the citizens of Fribourg when fire broke out in Bern on May 14, 1405. In return, the people of Bern granted the Fribourg peasants the right to sell their winter vegetables at city markets.

## 007 hits Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Agent 007 hit Stockholm Monday. Actor Pierce Brosnan, who plays James Bond in the newly released Goldeneye, said Sean Connery was his favourite actor as the famed martini-sipping agent. Together with co-star Izabella Scorupco, Brosnan met the press at the Grand Hotel shortly before Monday night's gala opening. "There will be more Bond movies," Brosnan said. The Irish-born Brosnan has signed contracts for two more Bond movies and expects to play a fourth. Although there are no scripts yet, locations have already been selected. The Swedish News Agency (TT) said, "Izabella is a wonderful woman." Brosnan said about Polish-born actress-model Scorupco, who has also lived in Sweden.

## After death, Robert Bolt 'still drops by for a drink'

LONDON (AP) — Robert Bolt was a man for all seasons — and then some, as his widow Sarah Miles is to be believed. The Oscar-winning screenwriter husband, who died in February aged 70, often visits their country home, Miles told the Daily Mail newspaper in an interview published Saturday. His corporeal body is buried in their backyard. Bolt was an atheist who did not share his wife's beliefs in the afterlife, but the day he died of complications following a stroke, Miles says she told him: "When you go, damn well come back and give me proof that I'm right and you're wrong." "And he did, and he keeps doing it, and that's why I'm not lonely," Miles told the Daily Mail. "He started doing the weirdest things, moving things around the house, a drink would suddenly disappear from someone's glass." Bolt was a heavy drinker. Bolt, who collaborated closely with British Director David Lean, won Oscars for A Man For All Seasons (1966) and Doctor Zhivago (1965). Bolt was twice married to Miles, who starred in the 1970 production of Ryan's Daughter.

## U.S. concerned about Russian nuclear plants; inspectors barred

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russians claiming "military sensitivity" have kept American officials from a full safety inspection of aging Soviet-era plutonium plants, according to a congressional report.

Kristen Suokko, an Energy Department (DOE) official in charge of international safety problems, said in an interview that she was awaiting an invitation to inspect the plant at Krasnoyarsk in Siberia.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed," she said. In September, after two years of efforts, U.S. inspectors were able to conduct full inspection of another plant in nearby Tomsk, she said.

The report by the General Accounting Office (GAO), which conducts investigations for Congress, cited difficulties U.S. officials have had inspecting Russian plants under efforts to cooperate in nuclear safety.

It said Energy Department

officials were denied full access to Tomsk and Krasnoyarsk "because of their military sensitivity." In the case of Tomsk, that referred to inspection attempts before the September visit, Ms. Suokko said.

The United States has spent \$26.9 million to help counter dangers from nuclear waste, largely from production of weapons-grade plutonium, in the former Soviet Union, the report said. That covers studies of contamination in the Arctic region, waste cleanup and other activities.

The GAO report quoted a private laboratory analysis that showed that Russia's nuclear weapons programme releases about 650 times as much radioactivity as the U.S. weapons complex.

Russia still has three reactors for plutonium production, and all were built more than 30 years ago. Since then, significant safety improvements have

been made in plant design, the report noted.

"Although detailed safety analyses are not available to DOE officials, they believe the reactors have safety problems because of their design and age," the report said.

The third plant, at Chelyabinsk, in the foothills of the Ural Mountains, no longer is producing plutonium, although it reprocesses spent fuel from nuclear submarines.

Sen. Bob Graham, who asked for the report, said Russia's plutonium-producing plants are particularly worrying because their design resembles the Chernobyl plant, scene of the Soviets' highest nuclear disaster.

Sen. Graham said there is no international accord covering the plutonium plants, as there is for the 58 Chernobyl-type reactors, which only produce power for civilian purposes.





Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich (left) announces to journalists at his office in Marietta, Georgia, that he does not intend to run for the presidency of the United States in 1996 (AFP photo)

## Gingrich rules out running for president in 1996

MARIETTA, Ga (R) — U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, ending months of speculation about his political ambitions, said Monday he would not seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1996.

The Georgia Republican told a news conference at his Georgia district office his duties as speaker, particularly in the battle with President Bill Clinton over a balanced budget, precluded a White House run next year.

"We've decided that we would explicitly, definitely close the door so there's no more speculation, I will not run next year for president," Mr. Gingrich said. "My intent is to run for re-election to the House and hopefully be speaker again."

The 52-year-old former history professor, widely viewed as the leader of the so-called Republican Revolution, raised the possibility of a White House bid shortly after taking over as speaker this year. But he quickly played down the possibility, saying he wanted the media exposure given a potential candidate mainly to advance Republican legislative proposals.

Mr. Gingrich said he thought it would be difficult to be speaker and run a national campaign for president. "I agree with my family and many constituents that my work as speaker of the House is more important at this time as we work on balancing the budget and renewing the American dream," he said in a statement released by his office.

He told reporters the budget battle was "the most important single decision about the future of our children and grandchildren and it's very important that we really focus over the next few weeks to make sure we actually get to a balanced budget that's real, that occurs in seven years and that changes things."

Mr. Clinton and the Republican-led Congress remain divided over tax and spending priorities and over ways to balance the budget. Their dispute partly closed the government for six days this month, the longest such shutdown ever.

They agreed on Nov. 19 to extend a stopgap arrangement for funding government operations to Dec. 15, giving more time to set spending levels for 1996 and deal with broader issues.

Mr. Gingrich said he reached his decision not to run for president after discussing the idea with his family during the Thanksgiving holiday. He had become the last major hold-out among possible Republican candidates when retired army Gen. Colin Powell announced his decision not to run on Nov. 8.

The battle over the budget has taken a toll on Mr. Gingrich's standing in public opinion polls, where he has recently trailed Mr. Clinton. He said he would not endorse a Republican candidate before the nominating convention next summer, saying he hoped to be asked to be chairman of the convention and so would remain neutral.

## China launches peace offensive after war games

HONG KONG (R) — A pro-China newspaper in Hong Kong Tuesday portrayed Taiwan as war-like and China as peace-loving in a new round of polemics on Taiwan independence.

The front-page story in the Beijing-controlled daily Wen Wei Po came a day after a warning that China's military exercises had proved it could launch a "shattering attack" on the island.

Wen Wei Po quoted what it said were Taiwan businessmen in China as saying that China was peaceful but that their home island was belligerent.

"Fujian (province) is turning military airports into civil fields and opening military ports to (civil) piers," the paper quoted a "Mr. Lin" as saying.

"You hear little discussion about war and none about attacking Taiwan," Mr. Lin was quoted as saying.

The atmosphere in Taiwan was different, with the streets full of talk of war and the government buying foreign weapons and holding war games, he was quoted as saying.

However, the last military exercise Taiwan held was on Oct. 7 in preparation for the ceremonial Oct. 10 National Day. No shots were fired.

In an earlier article Monday Wen Wei Po said Chinese war games staged in Fujian last weekend were based on an offensive strategy to "completely crush" opponents and were a severe warning to Taiwan against independence.

China views Taiwan as a rebel province, the last refuge of a Nationalist government which fled there from the mainland after losing a civil war to the Communists in 1949.

Wen Wei Po said the people of Fujian, the Chinese province closest to Taiwan, welcomed cross-strait business.

"But for the reunification of the motherland, the people in Fujian will not hesitate to sacrifice their interest," it said.

Wen Wei Po quoted Beijing experts on Taiwan as saying the war games had shown China's determination to unify the country.

"China has not changed its basic principle of trying every means to avoid war, which will do no good either to Taiwan or to China...and will only make foreigners laugh at us," said Jiang Diansheng, director of Beijing's Institute of Taiwan Studies.

But "peaceful reunification" and the absence of any promise not to use force were not contradictory, he said.

The aim of China's war games was to show non-peaceful means would be used if Taiwan went independent, he added.

Taiwan's inseparability from China was the necessary basis for unity talks, he said.

Mr. Jiang said the latest war games had no direct link to Taiwan's Dec. 2 general election.

"Even if there was no election, we would have to stand in combat readiness against the separation inclination emerging on Taiwan, because the core issue is national sovereignty," he said.

## Burma delegates told to hold firm on constitution

RANGOON (R) — Delegates to Burma's military-run Constitutional Convention were told Tuesday to take all the time they need to draft a constitution and not to allow their task to be disrupted.

"We all have the responsibility to maintain the success of the national convention has gained so far," Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the convening committee, told the 631 delegates at the opening ceremony of the fifth session of the convention which has been meeting sporadically for nearly three years.

"SLORC will never allow the good situation so far achieved to be weakened," he said, referring to the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council. "We will never allow the National Convention...to be disturbed by any forces."

Last week the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) party, led by Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, attacked the convention process as undemocratic and threatened a boycott if it was not changed.

Although NLD scored a 1990 election landslide victory, SLORC never allowed it to govern, saying the elected representatives only had powers to draft a new constitution.

Some NLD members and other "elected representatives" have participated in a very limited way in previous constitutional talks, making up only about 15 per cent of the total delegates.

Ms. Suu Kyi told Reuters in an interview Monday that NLD delegates who have previously annulled the convention would go to Tuesday's opening session and the party would then decide whether to participate in the talks or boycott them.

She is not attending because she was still under house arrest when the process began and was not named as a delegate. Tuesday's session is the first held since she was released unconditionally in July.

Ms. Suu Kyi also reiterated her oft-repeated but as yet unanswered call to the SLORC for dialogue with the opposition, saying that was the only way to achieve true democracy.

Many diplomats had hoped Ms. Suu Kyi and the NLD would take a decisive stance on the convention before it resumed, saying it was a key opportunity to end the agonisingly slow advances made by the NLD since July.

But NLD party Chairman Aung Shwe stuck to Ms. Suu Kyi's line Tuesday at the opening ceremony.

"We have to hear what they say," he told Reuters. "After we hear what they have to say today we will know better."

A total of 97 NLD members were eligible to attend the convention, he said.

## Italian parties agree on vote; president urges calm

ROME (R) — Italy's political rivals Tuesday agreed on the need to call an early general election but President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro called for calm during the country's looming European Union (EU) presidency.

Speaking on an official visit to the Netherlands, Mr. Scalfaro said Italy had "a great responsibility towards Europe and not just Europe" during its time at the helm of the 15-member EU.

Italy takes over the rotating EU six-month presidency in January and some centrist have called for technocrat Prime Minister Lamberto Dini to stay in office during this high-profile period to prevent potential chaos.

"The main point for all of us is to ensure that nobody tomorrow can say Italy's problems have had a negative effect on Europe," Mr. Scalfaro told Italian RAI television.

However, the publicly-declared position of leading politicians seemed to be hardening towards an election as soon as possible after months of political jousting.

Massimo d'Alema, leader of the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) that supports Mr. Dini, told reporters that the country needed an election.

"The acting is over, let's go and vote," he said Monday night, agreeing with former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi who has made many calls for elections three years early.

PDS Deputy Piero Fassino said Italy could vote by Feb. 20 with minimal disruption to the EU presidency.

Mr. Scalfaro, in a move that some interpreted as aimed at pushing back an immediate election to after the presidency ends in June, on Monday praised Mr. Dini's government.

# Sri Lankan army rolls into Jaffna, rebels vow revenge

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops tightened the noose Tuesday around the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna as the guerrilla movement's leader warned it would be hard for the army to hold on to its gains.

The military used tanks to blast through the town's booby-trapped maze of streets on the final leg of its long march towards Jaffna, where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have run a virtual mini-state for a decade.

The troops pushed towards Jaffna's town centre in separate flanks, after capturing areas north of Chundikkuli on its southern tip and south of the Kandasaany Hindu temple at the other end, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Air force jets bombed LTTE targets northwest of Jaffna Fort in the centre of town, the statement added.

"Though pilots have confirmed direct hits on these targets, the number of rebels killed and injured due to air and artillery attacks are not available," it said.

Two soldiers died Monday, while three officers and 24 soldiers were wounded, the statement said.

An estimated 2,000 guerrillas were reported to be trapped inside the town, unable to escape the military gauntlet.

LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran admitted Monday the army might capture the rebel citadel but said it would be "a great historical mistake" for the Colombo government.

"It is not hard to capture a land with massive force. To stand firm in the captured land is the hard thing," the shadowy leader told the rebel Voice of Tigers radio.

Military analysts expect the army to enter the town soon.

Mr. Prabhakaran, speaking in a broadcast heard in the northern government-ruled town of Vavuniya, said the LTTE had not been "terribly weakened" in the current offensive and the military had lost more men than the rebels.

"We fought cleverly in a land which is favourable to us" against the army "which came in with a big number of soldiers and heavy armoured," Mr. Prabhakaran said.

The military puts its own death toll at about 300 since the launch of Operation Riviresa on Oct. 17 and says the rebels have lost more than 1,600 men in what analysts have described as a huge military success for the army.

"The war for Jaffna is only a temporary setback," Mr. Prabhakaran said. "From this setback we will reach victory."

The military is adamant it will not let Jaffna slip back into rebel hands.

"Holding Jaffna will not be easy but we're confident our troops are up to it," a military spokesman told Reuters.

He said the army would change its approach of expanding forward defence lines (FDLs) once the town is captured.

The army has so far been expanding its hold on the northern peninsula by pushing forward its defences on a line and by holding on to the territory behind them.

"Maintaining FDLs takes more troops," the spokesman said.

Instead, the army would adopt a new plan to secure the town, repulse rebel attacks and mount their own attacks on rebels, he said. He did not give details of the plan.

## Grenade blasts kill 1, hurt 28 in Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines (R) — Unidentified men hurled four grenades in a market in the southern Philippines Tuesday, killing a boy and wounding 28 other people, police and rescuers said.

Police said the attack was apparently triggered by local political feuds. They had no evidence to link it to current talks in Indonesia between Manila and Muslim insurgents on ending a 23-year Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippines.

Three men hurled the grenades one after the other at a market in the town of Kabacan in North Cotabato province, town police chief Captain Jose Briones said.

"We do not believe it has something to do with the talks in Jakarta," he said by telephone. "Otherwise, there would have been attacks in other places."

Kabacan, on Mindanao Island, has a mixed Christian and Muslim population of 62,000.

Capt. Briones said "all indications" pointed to a possible connection to the killing of Kabacan Vice-Mayor Karutin Makalipat. He died last weekend after a bomb explosion in his office last month.

Radio reports said police were investigating whether the target of Tuesday's attack was a suspect in the vice-mayor's killing who owned a restaurant in Kabacan market.

The police and military have been on top alert throughout the south since last weekend to forestall any attacks by Muslim radicals not involved in the Jakarta peace talks.

## S.Korea reinforces military on political unrest

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho ordered the military Tuesday to reinforce readiness against arch-enemy North Korea as the South grapples with political turmoil.

In a letter to military commanders, he did not specifically mention a slush fund scandal embroiling ex-President Roh Tae-Woo and the nation's top businessmen, or a traumatic reopening of old wounds caused by a 1980 army massacre.

"North Korea is expected to employ a variety of aggressive activities to take over the South through Communist revolution by taking advantage of recent domestic incidents," Mr. Lee said, clearly referring to those episodes.

He said commanders should firmly unite and strengthen precautions against the Stalinist North.

The two Koreas are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War and in the past several months there have been two armed incursions from the North that have created full-scale security alerts in the South.

Mr. Roh has been arrested and is in detention after admitting to amassing a \$654 million slush fund while in office.

He and his predecessor Chun Doo Hwan also face criminal prosecution after media reports Tuesday said the Constitutional Court has decided to overturn a decision not to file charges against them for directing a 1980 coup.

President Kim Young-Sam for the first time last week declared the May 17 military action was a coup. He ordered his ruling Democratic Liberal Party to draft a special law to punish Mr. Roh and Mr. Chun for crushing a pro-democracy revolt that followed the coup in the southwestern city of Kwangju.

Almost 200 people were killed in the massacre by official count. Kwangju residents say over 1,000 died.

Media reports said prosecutors were preparing to reopen their investigation into the coup and the massacre. At the time of the events Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh were both army major generals.

Victims of the Kwangju slaughter Tuesday scoffed at Mr. Kim's initiative.

"I suspect this must be a political show designed to mislead the people," said Chon Kay-Ryang, whose son was killed after being shot in the head by troops that stormed the city.

He noted that Mr. Kim's move came as the public called for a probe into the use of political funds in the 1992 presidential election that swept Mr. Kim to power. Mr. Kim is bailing a credibility problem after denying he dipped into Mr. Roh's slush funds to fund his campaign.

## Russian doctor pushes own vision, example on campaign trail

MOSCOW (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Russians have trusted Svyatoslav Fyodorov with their eyes. Now he wants them to look around, then give him their votes.

"It pains me that the people whose vision I restored see a ruined country," says the blue campaign leaflet that lie in stacks at Dr. Fyodorov's sprawling medical complex, the Eye Microsurgery Institute.

The stocky, gray-haired surgeon won fame and fortune in Soviet days for his assembly-line surgery for near-sightedness. Then he cast his lot with Boris Yeltsin, branched out in business and continued to prosper in the rough-and-tumble capitalism that followed.

Now Dr. Fyodorov is turning his household name and his wealth into one of the most prominent bids in parliamentary elections next month.

He says his success can be Russia's too — if it just follows his example.

"He is our Ross Perot, a typical self-made man who wishes good for others too," the magazine Novoye Vremya wrote.

Of the 43 parties competing in December elections, Dr. Fyodorov's Workers' Self-Government Party is among just a half-dozen expected to win the 5 per cent of the vote needed to claim seats in parliament.

When pressed, Dr. Fyodorov lists the pro-reform parties as allies, but he promotes his own ideal of "cooperative" business, in which Russia's giant enterprises would be broken down into millions of small ones wholly owned by workers.

He preaches the virtues of hard work and lots of worker incentives.

Unlike many of Russia's new rich, whom he calls "fat cats," the 68-year-old Fyodorov remains popular despite his empire, which includes casino and hotel holdings.

He is seen as both a savvy businessman who takes care of his employees, and as a doctor — a man who can point to actually having helped people. He is known for giving eye operations to Russians at a discount by charging more for foreigners.

"He's a decent man... He could help heal the country," said Margarita Logvenova, a 65-year-old radiologist who plans to vote for Dr. Fyodorov.

"He's a doctor who took the Hippocratic oath, and he won't go back on it."

A poll released last week by the Russian Centre for Public Opinion showed that nearly 10 per cent of respondents listed Dr. Fyodorov among the five or six political figures they trust most.

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## History in free flow

IN HIS book, "From Abdullah to Hussein," Robert Satloff, the president of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, subtly observes that Jordanians are most ignorant of their contemporary history because they hardly have any historians, and the few books written by mostly Western and Israeli scholars are effectively not available for them because they are censored.

At a seminar held yesterday to commemorate Wasfi Al Tal, the popular prime minister who was assassinated in Cairo in 1971, historian Ali Mahafzah noted that there was a dearth of serious biographies, scholarly research and chronicling of Jordanian history, especially on relations between Jordanians and Palestinians, to which Mr. Tal fell victim.

As yesterday's commemoration ceremony showed, the best, some would say the only, biography of the late prime minister, was written by an Israeli scholar, Asher Susser. Dr. Mahafzah noted in his review of Mr. Susser's book that when the publication was translated into Arabic, the publishers of the Arabic version chose to omit two chapters, one on the author's conclusions on Mr. Tal's life and the other on Jordan after the prime minister's assassination. Though we are not sure of the real reasons behind the translator's choice to omit these two chapters, we suspect that the censor has ordered them dropped from the Arabic version.

Which leads us to think of the Press and Publications Law, the piece of legislation that prescribes to Jordanians what to read and what to write. It is this law, in the various forms and shapes it took during the past decades, which has empowered the censors to approve or disapprove of any script, be it a chronicle, a scholarly or literary work.

The fact that Jordan has very few biographies of its contemporary leaders, or hardly any serious work on recent history, except for the officially sanctioned version, or any meaningful study on social life, is testimony to the prevalence of a strict mentality that often sees security in inverse proportions to freedoms of expression and thought.

Perhaps Asher Susser was right to conclude in his biography of Mr. Tal that even though most of Jordan's political elite were schooled in the West they still accept and cherish the authoritarian tradition of the Middle East.

Perhaps, this can account for the elite's inclination towards restricting the freedom of expression even more. This inclination, however, does not tally with all other aspirations for democracy, liberation and peace.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i said Tuesday that the Ministry of Labour lost its credibility by failing to live up to its promises and to organise the local labour market. Fahed Al Fanek said that the ministry had announced that on July 25 this year, it gave the non-Jordanian workers three months grace period to adjust to regulations after finding that tens of thousands of them have been living and working in the country without valid work permits, but no drastic measures were taken as was promised by the ministry until now. Only a few of the guest workers took steps to adjust to the new regulations and obtained work permits allowing them to get employment in a number of jobs allowed for non-Jordanians, said the writer. The country has at least 100,000 non-Jordanians working illegally and taking the place of Jordanian job-seekers, but the government seems to be disinterested and unable to take any measures against this awkward situation, perhaps due to the influence of wealthy employers who pay far less wages to guest workers for longer hours than they do to Jordanians working less hours, said the writer. The non-Jordanians have been allowed to work in construction and agriculture which lack sufficient Jordanian workers but one can see guest workers everywhere, he added.

A WRITER in Al Dustour said the Palestinian opposition factions harboured by Damascus and living in either Syria or Lebanon will soon face the moment of truth now that Syria is approaching a peace treaty with Israel. Saleh Al Qalbi said that the Syrians have asked the Lebanese government to disarm these factions because the area is approaching peace and there was no need for arms. In a further move to show the Israelis his good intentions, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will at a later stage resort to transforming societies, according to the writer. The problem with these opposition factions is that they tried to ignore the realities about the ongoing political transformation in the Arab region, and they have been trying to stir up trouble for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for his deals with Israel at the order of others, added the writer.

## Washington Watch

# Caught between Powell and Gingrich, Dole comes up short

By Dr. James Zogby

POLITICAL DISCOURSE in Washington during the past two months was consumed with two events. First came the frenzy of speculation that Colin Gen. Powell might make a run for the presidency, and then the letdown when he announced that he would not. Only two days later, the government was virtually shut down and remained so for a week as a result of a bitter dispute between the White House and the Congress over the terms of the 1996 budget.

Outside the media limelight and largely forgotten in both instances was the profound negative effect that both developments had on the presidential ambitions of Republican Senator Robert Mr. Dole, the Senate majority leader, and the positive impact both had for Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Since September, Gen. Powell was the lead political story in the news on an almost daily basis. His national book tour and his flirtation with a presidential bid delighted the press and political establishment. He was cast as "the ideal candidate," an Eisenhower of the 90s, a moderate Republican who could win that party back from the control of the extreme right wing that has dominated its agenda for over a decade.

At first, the right wing of the Republican party was silenced. But as the Gen. Powell momentum

appeared to grow, conservatives began to speak out against him. Finally, only a few days before Gen. Powell announced that he would not run, a coalition of hardline conservatives gathered to denounce his possible candidacy and announce that they would not allow him to stop their "revolution" which is turning the party and the country in their direction.

Throughout this period, Mr. Dole's poll numbers steadily dropped. At first, polls showed that while Gen. Powell could beat President Clinton in a 2-way race, Mr. Dole still edged out Gen. Powell in most states' Republican primary polls. But toward the end, even in conservative New Hampshire, Gen. Powell was seen to be ahead of Mr. Dole.

And when Gen. Powell finally dropped out, while Mr. Dole breathed a sigh of relief, his polling figures were significantly lower than they were before the episode started. In New Hampshire, for example, he had declined from a pre-Gen. Powell high of 45 per cent to a low of 27 per cent in primary polls, while his nearest challenger in that state, Pat Buchanan, increased his poll numbers from 9 per cent to 17 per cent. And in the national two-way race against President Clinton, Mr. Dole was showing as losing by over 10 per cent — with Clinton leading in almost every region in the country.

It appears that Mr. Dole suffered from too little exposure during the two months of Gen. Powellmania, and that in contrast to the former general he appeared as less of a leader and too much a captive of the rightwing of the Republican party.

But if two months in Gen. Powell's shadow hurt Mr. Dole, the Republican Senator has fared no better in the shadow of his colleague, Republican Speaker of the U.S. House Newt Mr. Gingrich during the one-week shutdown of the federal government.

Mr. Gingrich is an angry and confrontational leader of the right wing's "conservative revolution" in the Congress. While wielding considerable power in the Congress due to the landslide Republican victory in the 1994 elections in which 73 predominantly conservative Congressmen were elected to take control of the House of Representatives, Mr. Gingrich is a remarkably unpopular figure with the public at large. In fact, a recent poll shows that he is as unpopular as Richard Nixon was after Watergate.

The difficulty for Mr. Dole is that it was Mr. Gingrich who led the week-long battle against the White House over the 1996 budget. Not only did the Clinton administration have the upper hand in this war because they were able to portray the Republican budget as too extreme in its

cuts in social spending for the elderly and the poor and disabled, but Mr. Gingrich — as spokesman for the Congressional Republicans — was perceived as too harsh and too rash and too arrogant.

Senate Majority Leader Mr. Dole, the leading Republican contender for the presidency of the U.S., appeared on television each day standing silently next to Mr. Gingrich as the speaker castigated the administration and stole the spotlight.

What everyone in Washington knew was if Mr. Dole had been in charge, the debate with the White House would have been civil, and compromise would have been possible far earlier in the process. So the question that emerged was why Mr. Dole took a back seat to Mr. Gingrich. Was it further evidence of his being captive to the rightwing? And what did it say about his leadership qualities?

Through all of this Clinton came out virtually unscathed. After three years in office the president seemed to have finally found his bearings and emerged as a determined leader. Saying no to the Republican revolution, standing firm on principles and agreeing to compromise only when his priorities were recognised, in the end Clinton looked like the moderates' best hope for 1996.

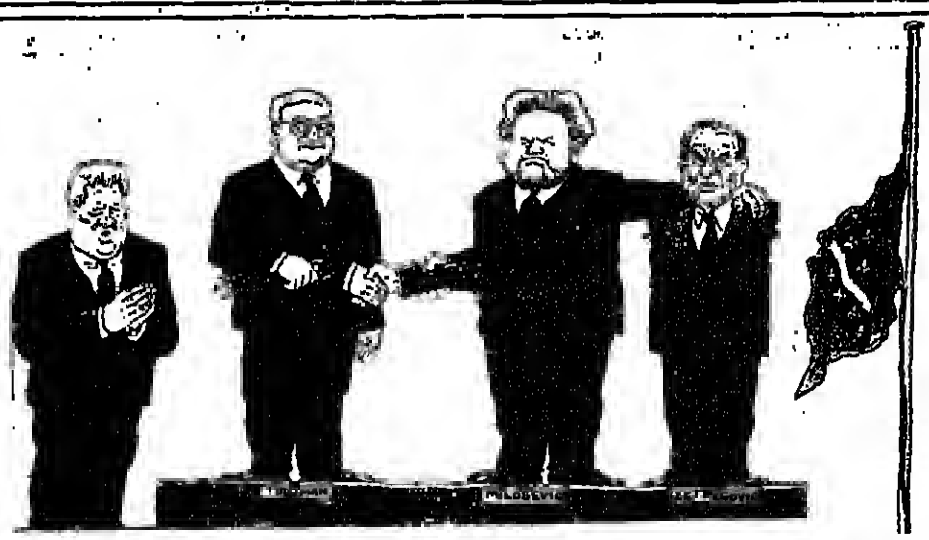
Clearly Gen. Powell would have presented a serious challenge to the Democratic President. He could have taken away from the President a number of voting blocs traditionally Democratic in their voting tendencies, especially African-Americans. If Gen. Powell had weathered the inevitable media backlash that engulfs every serious candidate (and now we have no way of knowing if he would have), his challenge to Clinton could have been one of the most exciting in recent U.S. history. But with Gen. Powell gone, Clinton will claim that moderates have no place in the Republican party as currently constituted, a claim that Republicans will have to work hard to refute.

Mr. Dole can still reclaim his leadership mantle and can rise above the role that he has fallen into, but to do that he will have to manoeuvre carefully. With less than 100 days before the first presidential voting in Iowa and the first presidential primary in New Hampshire, the senator will have to lead the budget debate towards a successful conclusion, maintain enough of his conservative credentials to keep his ground against Pat Buchanan in New Hampshire and conservative Senator Phil Gramm in Iowa, while at the same time displaying to the broader electorate that he can be more than the leader of one wing of one party.

## Dayton deal holds seeds of own destruction

By Tony Barber

For all its high ideals, the settlement rewards ethnic cleansing



THE BOSNIAN peace agreement represents a brave attempt to assert fundamental Western values in the Balkans after a war in which combatants on all sides treated those values with contempt. The settlement aims to protect human rights, ensure free elections and defend the principle that borders cannot be changed by force, yet it is founded on a division of territory that implicitly recognises that the war's ugliest consequences are unlikely to be reversed.

The central feature of the agreement is that Bosnia remains a united state in its pre-war borders, but is split between a Muslim-Croat federation with 51 per cent of the land and a Bosnian Serb republic with 49 per cent. Sarajevo, which the Serbs wanted to partition, will stay united in the Muslim-Croat federation with freedom of movement for all nationalities.

The agreement awards the federation the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, which is to be linked to the federation by a narrow corridor. But all other towns in eastern Bosnia from which Serb forces expelled Muslims from April 1992 onwards are allocated to the Bosnian Serb republic.

One issue was not settled at Dayton, Ohio, and will be decided by international arbitration within a year. This concerns the Serb demand for a wider corridor

near the northern town of Brcko to connect Serb possessions in west and eastern Bosnia. The Bosnian government wanted access to the Sava river, which runs along the Bosnian-Croatian border in the disputed area, while the Croats were outraged at suggestions that they should sacrifice the historically Croat region of Posavina to accommodate the Serbs. The issue almost torpedoed the Ohio negotiations.

Central Bosnian government institutions will include a presidency, a two-chamber legislature, a constitutional court and a central bank. The government will be responsible for foreign policy, foreign trade, monetary policy and im-

migration. However, the Muslim-Croat and Serb zones will have their own presidencies, legislatures and — crucially — armies. It is open to doubt whether Bosnia's federal institutions will stamp their authority on the two substates. The agreement envisages free elections to the legislature and presidency as well as to those of the Muslim-Croat and Serb entities within six to nine months. Refugees will have the right to vote in their original place of residence, but it is not clear how they will be helped to exercise this right.

People charged with war crimes by the United Nations are barred from holding office. This would in-

clude Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb leaders, and Dario Kordic and General Thorimir Blaskic, two senior Bosnian Croat leaders.

NATO forces implementing the peace agreement will have the authority to arrest indicted war criminals if they encounter them, but will not be given the task of tracking them down. The peace deal requires the governments of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and the two Bosnian entities to cooperate with the U.N. tribunal.

In Serbia's case, U.N. sanctions will not be fully lifted until such cooperation is forthcoming and Belgrade addresses other con-

cerns, notably the treatment of the ethnic Albanian majority in the southern province of Kosovo. This means Serbia will be denied access to international financial institutions and refused readmission to other organisations.

The settlement creates a Commission on Human Rights with an internationally appointed ombudsman and a Human Rights Chamber to hear cases brought by Bosnian citizens. It says the chamber will have the authority to order the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb republic to stop abuses, but does not explain how the chamber can ensure compliance with its instructions.

Bosnia's 2 million or more refugees are assured of the right to return home or obtain "just compensation" for their losses. However, this clause may be a dead letter, as it is hard to imagine victims of "ethnic cleansing," such as the Muslims of northern and eastern Bosnia, returning to areas where their tormentors now rule the roost.

The agreement envisages a phased lifting of the U.N. arms embargo on former Yugoslavia, with the combatants barred from acquiring tanks, heavy artillery, mines, military aircraft and attack helicopters for 180 days. How such limits can be enforced when the U.N. embargo was broken with great ease during the war is not explained.

The Independent

## Pope seems besieged by dissent and disobedience

By Philip Pallotta

Reuter  
VATICAN CITY — The referendum to legalise divorce in Roman Catholic Ireland was the second international public disappointment in a week for Pope John Paul, who seems besieged recently by disobedience and dissent.

The end of a 58-year-old ban on divorce in Ireland came less than a week after the defeat of devoutly Roman Catholic Leach Walesa at the hands of ex-communist Aleksander Kwasniewski in the Polish presidential elections.

"It is difficult for the Holy See to swallow two sensational international knockouts in only seven days," the Rome newspaper La Repubblica said on Sunday.

In Ireland, the closest re-

sult in the country's electoral history came only four days after the Pope intervened in the campaign by urging the Irish "to reflect on the importance for society of the indissoluble character of the marriage bond."

The Irish chose not to listen to the Pope, just as the people in his Polish homeland decided not to follow the guidance of the once mighty and princely Polish church, which had thrown its weight, albeit belatedly, behind Mr. Walesa.

The significance of the double defeat in two of the European countries most associated with Catholicism will not be lost on the Vatican, church sources said. Ireland was a softer blow for the Vatican than Poland because of the slim margin by which the divorce referendum won.

But the defeats came in countries where the sway the church held over its faithful was once unquestioned.

What the two results did point to was that the Catholic church would have to search for new methods to convince its faithful that it could still offer guidance on political and moral issues.

"Ireland and Poland were two cases which showed the evolution of a certain type of culture into smaller societies that were once closed and have simply caught up with the rest of Europe," one church source said.

"In a sense both results are anti-Pope and anti-church because, if he and the church identified with a certain way of thinking, the results showed that this way of thinking is losing out," the source said.

Another source said the church may have to rethink its methods of appealing to the people and of trying to exercise political influence in Catholic countries.

In both cases, church sources say, some people may have voted the way they did deliberately to spite the church because they felt its influence over daily life was excessive.

When the common enemy was communism and he led the pro-democracy charge, Pope John Paul seemed unbeatable, particularly in his homeland.

But recently he seems besieged by disobedience and dissent. Last week, he felt compelled to remind his own Catholic theologians they could not openly contest official church teachings such as bans on abortion and contraception.

A week earlier, faced with opposition over the church's ban on women priests, the Pope asked the Vatican's doctrinal office to issue a ruling that a 1994 papal document outlining the ban was a definitive and infallible part of church teachings.

A poll taken for a conference of Italy's church hierarchy showed that many Italians considered the ban a more serious sin than adultery, homosexual activity or premarital sex.

Earlier this month, some 1.5 million Roman Catholics in Germany, members of a movement called "We Are the Church," signed a petition calling for reforms including the ordination of women and an end to priestly celibacy.

Austrian Catholics signed a similar petition in September.

## Media tremors

IN THE days before peace with Israel, whenever Jordanians wanted to know what was happening in Jordan, they tuned to Radio Israel. Whether it was a reshuffle of the Jordanian cabinet, a trip by a Jordanian dignitary abroad, or a visit by a foreign official to Jordan, it was invariably announced on Radio Israel well before the Jordanian media had uttered a word about it. I hope that the spirit of peace, and the increased consideration which our Israeli neighbours show for our sensitivities will not deprive us of this valuable source of information. The reason I say this is that Jordanian media seem to dwell under the misconception that their mission in life is not to inform the citizen, but to protect him from unpleasant facts — or pleasant facts — in fact, any facts.

Take, for instance, the earthquakes that hit Jordan and neighbouring countries last week. Earthquakes, in general, are unwelcome occurrences; but they are acts of God, and as such, no one whether in government or outside it can be blamed for them, nor for the damage which they cause. Why, then, did our media do such a poor job of covering them? Were they afraid of upsetting God?

It may be considered a step forward that the tremors were reported at all. But look at the coverage. A leading Arabic daily reported to its readers last Friday that: "A new earthquake of force 5.1 degrees hit the south of the Kingdom, but it did not cause any damage or casualties." Adjacent to this news item, another story announced that: "His Excellency the Prime Minister inspected the consequences of the earthquake and praised the speed and efficiency with which government agencies responded to it."

Let us see now. Is it conceivable that the same quake should have caused damage in Israel and Egypt, but not in Jordan? Could a tremor be so selective as to damage Eilat but not Aqaba, which is a few metres away? Better still, there was no damage, right? To what, then, did government agencies respond with speed and efficiency? What consequences did the prime minister inspect if they did not constitute damage? Could they have been beneficial effects? Moreover, having been comforted by the assurances that the damage, which did not occur, was well handled and inspected, we were further reassured that no further tremors were expected, but that all necessary precautions have been taken to cope with them.

On that score, may we be informed what these measures are? I have every confidence that, in an emergency, every member of the police and civil defence would do his utmost to help the citizens. But it might be an idea to let us know what to expect, if only to avoid a panic situation. In fact, we, mere civilians, if better informed, may be able to help.

With media like ours, how can one be surprised that rumour-mongers succeed in spreading any lies, no matter how blatant? A constructive suggestion would be for our media to start treating Jordanians like adults, rather than like children to be mollified in blissful ignorance.



## Barcelona Declaration sets out clear parameters

(Continued from page 1)

Javier Solana said the declaration was adopted "comprehensively and unreservedly, after enormous difficulties."

The agreement was salvaged by dropping a clause proposed by Syria recognising the right to resist foreign occupation.

The final declaration said participants pledged to promote regional security by acting in favour of nuclear non-proliferation through adherence to and compliance with a combination of international and regional non-proliferation regimes, including the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

However, it did include a recognition of the right to self-determination, demanded by the Palestinians and opposed by Israel.

Asked how the EU had managed to rally all 27 countries behind the text, Mr. Solana responded: "Because it wasn't necessary to sign it."

Instead it was simply adopted.

Nevertheless, Spanish organisers took no chances and pulled the plug on live press coverage during the adoption ceremony.

Israel and Syria, whose ministers were attending an international conference together for the first time in four years, had disagreed on clauses on terrorism, self-determination and nuclear weapons.

The EU countries held intensive negotiations with their foreign ministers and other Arab countries earlier Tuesday to hammer out a compromise agreement.

Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammed Salah Dendri, speaking for the eight Arab delegations in Barcelona, hailed the fact that the "main actors in the Middle East peace process talked to each other and also managed to come to a joint understanding on their shared future."

The final declaration announced the creation of a new economic and political partnership between the 15 EU countries and their 12 Mediterranean neighbours, including a regional free-trade zone by 2010.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez told delegates: "Barcelona is the launching point of an ambitious process which will rely on follow-up mechanisms and incentives to institutionalise our dialogue and move forward."

"May Barcelona be remembered as an appointment with unity and progress."

The unprecedented two-day conference here grouped the EU with Israel, Turkey, Malta, Cyprus and eight Arab delegations — Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

The Barcelona Declaration states and aims to bury past misunderstandings and plot a grand mutual agenda for the future.

It pledges cooperation on joint security, fighting crime, drugs and migratory pressures, respecting human rights, cultural heritage, religious diversity and territorial integrity as well as aiming for free trade in industrial goods by 2010.

EU foreign ministers held an emergency meeting to seek a formula that would allow some participants to imply reservations on parts of the document.

Current EU President Spain pleaded with Arab delegations that Barcelona was not the right forum to resolve their disputes with Israel, nor could it be done in such a short space of time.

"The conference wasn't aimed at discussing the (Middle East) peace process," Mr. Gonzalez said.

After Mauritania signed an agreement recognising Israel and setting an exchange of interest sections on Monday, Algeria's Dendri ruled out his country taking any such step until there was an Arab League consensus.

"We do not condemn Arab states for going ahead alone but the contagion will not spread to Algeria," he told reporters.

The main incentive to reach a consensus in Barcelona was the EU offer of \$6 billion in aid for education and structural projects over the next five years.

"It's like the United Nations. They are all trying to make their points up to the last moment, but this time there is \$6 billion at stake," said one European diplomat who was confident accord would eventually be reached.

The historic first meeting between the Mediterranean's

rich and poor has been billed as marking a new start for the region with its huge social and political problems.

"Prosperity and stability go hand in hand. This must be the main message to go out from this conference," British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind told a round-table on economic issues.

He told South and East Mediterranean nations, many of whose economies remain under state control, that the route to growth lay via greater economic liberty and a vigorous private sector.

The 12-page Barcelona Declaration is divided into three sections addressing political and security, economic and financial, and social and cultural cooperation.

Here are the main points: Political and security partnership:

To establish a common area of peace and stability, delegates pledge to:

— Develop the rule of law and democracy in their political systems;

— Respect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

— Combat racism and xenophobia, and ensure respect for different groups;

— Respect the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination in line with the U.N. Charter;

— Respect each other's territorial integrity, and reaffirm the right to exercise sovereignty by legitimate means in accordance with the U.N. Charter;

— Strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism, organised crime and drugs problems;

— Promote regional security in favour of nuclear, chemical and biological non-proliferation through adherence to and compliance with a range of international and regional agreements, including the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and aim for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction; and

— Refrain from developing military capacity beyond defence requirements.

Economic and security partnership:

To create an area of shared prosperity, delegates pledge to:

— Acknowledge the problems caused by high debts, and pledge to continue dialogue;

— Speed up economic development, improve living conditions for their people and reduce the gap between Europe and the southern and eastern Mediterranean;

— Aim for a target date of 2010 to create a Mediterranean free trade zone, as far as EU agricultural policies and GATT negotiations allow;

— Open their economies and promote the private sector, creating a climate suitable for investment;

— Coordinate to protect the environment, promote the participation of women in public life, modernise agriculture and address the shared problem of water resources.

The European Union pledged to put up 4.685 million ECUs (around \$6 billion) from 1995-1999 in aid to help countries make the economic transition, together with a similar amount in loans

Social and cultural partnership:

To promote mutual understanding, delegates pledge to:

— Promote cultural exchanges, concentrate on the health sector and boost social development;

— Realise that large population growth must be counterbalanced by economic development;

— Establish closer cooperation to face illegal immigration, be aware of their responsibility for readmission and create jobs and training to reduce migratory pressures; and

— Strengthen cooperation against terrorism, drug trafficking, international crime and racism.

As a follow-up to Barcelona, there will be a regular meeting of their foreign ministers beginning in early 1997 in a Mediterranean country yet to be decided, as well as ad hoc meetings of ministers and experts in specific fields.

(Continued from page 1)

These bombardments are very serious but I don't believe they are a response by Syria to our peace proposals."

Israeli jets carried out at least five raids and fired more than 10 air-to-ground missiles at sites manned by Hizbollah north of Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the air raids.

The Israeli army sent extra artillery to the security zone. Around 10 artillery pieces mounted on armoured vehicles rolled into the occupied border strip.

The violence flared after Hizbollah announced the death of three of its guerrillas.

Security sources said the three — who were buried Tuesday at a funeral attended by 2,000 people — were killed in an Israeli air raid on Sunday that targeted the Iqlim Al Tufah, one of Hizbollah's strongholds.

Israel's artillery also rained hundreds of shells on suspected guerrilla positions north of the zone, at a rate of one a minute, and staged mock raids drawing retaliatory fire from Lebanese army anti-aircraft guns.

The shelling covered a 25-kilometre front facing the western and central sectors of the "security zone." More than 400 shells fell on the area, Lebanese police and U.N. peacekeepers said.

One of Hizbollah's chiefs in South Lebanon, Saeed Harb, 31, a veteran guerrilla and father of three, was killed when his booby-trapped car exploded outside his house in the village of Jib-sheet.

Hizbollah Deputy Mohammad Raad accused Israel of planting the bomb and warned that Israel would pay, accusing the Jewish state of "using agents and mercenaries in Lebanon to attack Hizbollah officials."

Mr. Raad also pledged that "Katyusha rockets will always be ready as long as the security of our civilians in South Lebanon is threatened by the Israeli enemy."

Around 2,000 Hizbollah supporters attended the funeral in the town of Ehba for the three guerrillas killed in Israel's air raid, calling for revenge as Israeli warplanes buzzed the region.

"We have decided to use all the means possible to make Israel pay a dear price for any attack on civilians in South Lebanon Nabil Kauk, a Hizbollah official, told mourners.

meeting with all 16 NATO defence ministers.

A U.N. spokesman said in Zagreb nearly 2,000 Croatian Serbs could die from cold and hunger this winter if they do not get immediate help from international aid organisations.

More than 5,000 mainly elderly Serbs had suffered regular harassment since refusing to flee with 150,000 fellow Serbs from Croatian forces stormed the Krajina region in August, said Chris Guinness, citing U.N. reports.

"We estimate that 1,700 will not survive the winter," Mr. Guinness said.

Mr. Grachev was expected to formally announce the accord later Tuesday after a

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said that NATO and Russia would reach an agreement later in the day on the political control of the NATO-led Bosnia peace force, removing the final obstacle to Russian participation in the force.

"We think we have a solution on the control of the operation," Mr. Grachev said after a meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

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## Flowery philosophy bounds in Barcelona

BARCELONA (R) — The Bible, the Crusades and the cradle of civilisation were the speechwriters' favourite tools as European and Mediterranean ministers beat their verbal swords into ploughshares in an orgy of historical metaphors.

Muslims, Christians and Jews turned their backs on centuries of enmity to invoke the one God to whom they all pray with ringing calls for a new era of understanding.

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana opened the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean conference by noting it fell on the 900th anniversary of Pope Urban II's inauspicious decision to send the first Crusade to conquer Jerusalem.

"The distant day was more than just a painful example of intolerance: it was the start of a long history of conflict, incomprehension and crisis between civilisations," he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak also cited the Crusades, saying the Papal

Council in Clermont, France, had launched "one of the bloodiest wars in history between Europe and significant parts of the land and peoples of the Mediterranean."

Not too long ago, Israel's Arab neighbours often likened the Israelis to the Crusaders, vowing they too would be driven out of the Middle East. Peace has banished such talk in public.

Mr. Barak, until recently Israel's top general and, by his own acknowledgement, a man of the sword rather than of the ploughshare, wove perhaps the most convoluted mixed metaphor in two days of historical and biblical sword-beating.

After citing Prophet Isaiah's words, he said he was now joining "the club of peacemakers and peacekeepers, a club whose symbol is the ploughshare and the olive branch."

"Let us now not only beat our swords into ploughshares. Let us together make swords a tool of the past, make war almost impossi-

ble," he said.

"Let us make sure the modern ploughshares, the computers, will help people to prosper," Mr. Barak ploughed on.

British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind urged Mediterranean nations to beat their swords into shares, saying only a free market economy could make their economic desert bloom.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sought inspiration in Christianity.

He invited the 26 other participating nations to Bethlehem to join the Palestinians.

"On this occasion, I invite you to participate in this great world religious and historical event, and to make Bethlehem a beacon of peace and co-existence of all faiths in the whole world, especially on the soil of Palestine, centre of the three holy religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam."

"Glory to God in heaven, peace on earth and goodwill to all men," Mr. Arafat declared.

foreign minister, were locked away for more than two hours at the Barcelona hotel where they are staying to attend a Euro-Mediterranean conference.

"It was a positive discussion on many levels and in many issues," Mr. Arafat said.

Among the issues they tackled were Israel's redeployment on the West Bank and the Palestinian elections set for January, Mr. Barak added.

A former Israeli army chief-of-staff, Mr. Barak was appointed foreign minister last Thursday to replace Shimon Peres, who became prime minister following the Nov. 4 assassination of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

He told reporters after the meeting: "We will try to continue the peace effort of Peres when he was foreign minister."

"We have no illusion that there will be obstacles on the path to peace," he cautioned, however.

Both men also spoke of the need to clamp down on militants on either side.

"Terror should be fought by Israel and, I believe, also by the Palestinians," Mr. Barak said.

"We knew each other before but we didn't have the opportunity to meet each other," Mr. Arafat said.

Sharif Zeid restates position

(Continued from page 1)

Great Arab Revolt," Sharif Zeid said.

Speaking in the presence of Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour, the prime minister said that the country's efforts should dedicate their efforts to serving their country and steer away from politics and personal gains.

He expressed the government's appreciation of the moves taken by the silent majority among union members, who, he said, have realised the truth about the unions and their behaviour and activities which are being exploited as tools to achieve political objectives.

Ahmad Talhoumi, head of the engineers union in Maan Governorate, said his group takes pride in the Kingdom's leadership: "We work silently but diligently to serve Jordan. But we have broken our silence in response to the King's call and we have come to meet the prime minister to air our views," he said.

Last week the prime minister received a committee representing 200 engineers who said they represent the silent majority among the engineers after staging a march

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## Christopher expected - Syria

(Continued from page 1)

withdrawal from the Golan Heights."

It was the standard Syrian stand on the peace process since their bilateral talks were launched in October 1991.

Mr. Barak told Israeli radio by telephone on Tuesday: "There has not yet been public talks with Syria. Sharaa has replied to my intervention, but before we can judge we will have to study carefully the text of his speech in Arabic to see if it contains positive signs."

Since the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Nov. 4, both Israel and Syria have made increasing signals that they are willing to resume their negotiations.

"There has perhaps been some difference in tone, but

fundamentally it is difficult to see a real change," said Yossi Beilin, an Israeli minister in charge of helping to steer the peace negotiations.

"If this event had happened in 1991 or 1992, it would have been a real breakthrough but in 1995 it is not," he told Israeli military radio.

Mr. Beilin stressed Israel believed only a meeting between Mr. Peres and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad could unlock the peace negotiations.

"We can hope that the United States intervenes more actively from now to the end of the year and that perhaps we can arrive at something," he said.

"But only a meeting at the highest level with President Assad, who is the only one who can decide in Syria, can really unlock the talks."

Colonies could be annexed - Beilin

(Continued from page 1)

"This annexation could lead parallelly to the withdrawal of our army from the largest part of the West Bank," Mr. Beilin said.

He is close collaborator of Prime Minister Shimon Peres and considered a "dove" within the Labour Party.

Israel's new foreign minister, Ehud Barak, said in his first public speech on Thursday after taking office that he too favoured an annexation of areas of the West Bank.

He said Israel should maintain its "civilian and military presence" in the Jordan Valley, the Gush Etzion collection of settlements south of

Jerusalem and a band of places in the west of the West Bank.

In his comments on Israel Radio, Mr. Beilin declined to name any of the 145 settlements.

The remarks, uncharacteristic of the left-wing minister, appeared to be another attempt by a member of Mr. Peres' government to hold out an olive branch to settlers who felt assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had neglected them.

Mr. Beilin said he did not believe any settlements, in areas to be handed over to the Palestinians, would be uprooted or that the PNA would force settlers to leave.

King thanks government, people

(Continued from page 1)

achievements and national unity.

"We will not allow any one to tamper with or undermine national unity or the country's achievements and the progress that we all have sought to achieve," the King said.

The King added: "We have spent long years

working for the progress and prosperity of this country and to turn it into a model in pluralism, democracy and respect for human rights."

The King also voiced appreciation to all the Jordanians for the warm feelings of love and loyalty they have expressed in the various celebrations to mark his birthday.

Wasfi Tal remembered

(Continued from page 1)

fought in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

His conflict with the pan-Arab movements started in 1955. He believed in the need to ally the Arabs with the West, a stand that contradicted the beliefs and thoughts of the late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser, according to historian Ali Mahafzah, who presented a study on Mr. Tal's life based on a book written by the Israeli scholar, Asher Susser.

After serving as head of the press and publications department, broadcasting corporation he became Jordanian ambassador to Iraq. Mr. Tal was asked by King Hussein to form his first cabinet in 1962.

The late prime minister was assassinated on Nov. 28, 1971 by four men of the Palestinian Black September organisation in front of the Sheraton Hotel in Cairo, where he was attending an Arab League meeting.

According to Dr. Rabab'ah, Mr. Tal was going to present a plan on means of Arab resistance against Israel.

"Although the King warned him not to go to Cairo because he was not desired, he insisted on going," Dr. Rabab'ah said.

The head of the intelligence department at the time, Senator Nasser Rashid, said that his department had previous knowledge of a possible attempt against Wasfi's life and knew the names of the assassins.

"It was also known that the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat will not give him the needed protection which (we assumed) would be a factor in helping the murderers carry out their scheme as it had really happened," Mr. Rashid said.

The assassins entered Egypt, armed with weapons. They were arrested by the Egyptian authorities and after investigation they were released."

"The assassination was carried out by four



## EU ministers dodge tough issues on single currency

### Birthstone of November: Topaz



## Business &amp; Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1995 9

## Beaujolais Nouveau 95 arrived with Air France

AIR FRANCE held its annual reception of Beaujolais Nouveau 95 at Forte Grand Amman on Nov. 23, 1995. Air France, in cooperation with Forte Grand and the French Embassy in Amman, hosted this reception in honour of its frequent flyer customers, its top agents and the French companies settled in Jordan.

## Financial Markets

Currency	Nov 28/11/95	Nov 27/11/95
British Pound	1.5525	1.5521
Deutsche Mark	1.4375	1.4383
Swiss Franc	1.5515	1.5518
French Franc	4.9225	4.9247
Japanese Yen	181.75	181.58
European Currency Unit	1.6495	1.6493

Currency	Nov 28/11/95	Nov 27/11/95
U.S. Dollar	0.902	0.910
British Pound	1.077	1.081
Deutsche Mark	0.6115	0.6140
Swiss Franc	0.6104	0.6137
French Franc	0.1432	0.1438
Japanese Yen	0.0064	0.0065
European Currency Unit	0.0064	0.0064

Currency	Nov 28/11/95	Nov 27/11/95
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Swiss Franc	0.6104	0.6137
French Franc	0.1432	0.1438
Japanese Yen	0.0064	0.0065
European Currency Unit	0.0064	0.0064

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3538/48	Canadian dollar	1.4354/64
One sterling	1.6080/90	Deutsche marks	1.5500/60
One ounce of gold	389.00/389.50	Swiss francs	29.50/54
		Belgian francs	4.9209/59
		French francs	1596.2/7.7
		Italian lire	101.22/32
		Japanese yen	6.5060/60
		Swedish crowns	6.3180/30
		Norwegian crowns	5.5513/13
		Danish crowns	1.4120/30
		Singapore dollars	0.7492/97
		Australian dollars	7.7352/62
		Hong Kong dollars	

## Avis delegates chart course for the future

Avis delegates from around the world converged last September at one of the world's top leisure destinations: Walt Disney World, in Orlando, Florida. What better anniversary summit spot for a global operation, spanning some 156 countries and 5,200 locations, than a premier resort that showcases the cultures around the globe.

Since the founding of the company in the 1940s, Avis has grown into a true multi-national service giant, known around the world for excellence and innovation. More than 1500 delegates attended to kick off the year-long commemoration of their many achievements and to chart a course for the future. There was a blend of corporate and licensee personnel from all levels, from senior management to front-line representatives.

Avis senior officials Alun Cathcart and Joseph Vittoria addressed convention delegates on the company's global expansion plans — and they envisioned some exciting opportunities.

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## Japan's Kizu Credit Union loses \$9.6b

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's collapsed Kizu Credit Union, the largest such institution in the country, had incurred losses of 960 billion yen (\$9.6 billion), the Bank of Japan said.

It said an examination of Kizu by the Osaka Prefecture also revealed the credit union had recoverable but non-performing assets of 230 billion yen.

"Kizu Credit is thus in the extraordinary situation where performing assets are only about 120.0 billion yen, compared with total assets of 1.31 trillion yen," the Bank of Japan said in a statement.

The finance ministry said in a separate statement: "Kizu Credit Cooperatives" had debts exceeded more than 90 per cent of its total assets of 1.31 trillion yen and is in an extremely abnormal situation.

"It is necessary to pursue thoroughly the responsibility of management that brought down such a situation," it said, adding that an ongoing investigation may result in criminal action against the former management.

Kizu was suspended Aug. 30 and authorities subsequently put it into liquidation following the disclosure of its bad loan situation.

The Bank of Japan said Wednesday that the business operations of Kizu would be transferred to Tokyo Kyodo Bank, which would be restructured into a Japanese version of the Resolution Trust Corp. launched in the United States to deal with the U.S. savings and loan association crisis earlier in the decade.

But the central bank said such an entity would require parliamentary approval and so Kizu's operations would not be transferred until legislative changes were in place.

Under the scheme, "budgetary support" would be sought from the Osaka prefectural government as well as the "maximum amount of financial assistance by the Deposit Insurance Corp." Financial support would also be sought from related financial institutions, the Bank of Japan said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
NOVEMBER 28/11/95			
COMPANY NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PRICE
ARAB BANK	300	8215	27.38
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	5000	2520	5.04
BANK OF JORDAN	960	3455	3.60
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1000	1100	1.10
TRUST-BANK DEVELOPMENT BANK	5175	13225	2.55
JORDAN CUB BANK	2741	2995	1.09
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2290	4125	1.80
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	483	1616	3.35
WEST JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR HOUSING	200	640	3.20
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	43300	38200	0.88
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4140	6159	1.49
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>65779</b>	<b>176424</b>	<b>2.68</b>
<b>FINANCIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>2.72</b>
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>2252</b>	<b>2.65</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>28886</b>	<b>45279</b>	<b>1.57</b>
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>42148</b>	<b>70564</b>	<b>1.67</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>248123</b>	<b>402383</b>	<b>1.62</b>

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## Ajax win World Club title on penalties

TOKYO (R) — Captain Danny Blind converted his side's last penalty to give Ajax Amsterdam the World Club Cup with a 4-3 shootout victory over Brazil's Gremio after a 0-0 draw following extra-time on Tuesday.

Ajax were always in front with their penalties after Edwin Van Der Sar saved from Dinho and Francisco arce hit the bar with Gremio's second even though Patrick Kluivert put the Dutch side's opening spot kick wide.

Ajax dominated the match but were unable to breach the strong Gremio defence even though the Brazilian side were down to 10 men from the 56th minute.

Paraguay central defender Catalino Rivarola was sent off for his second bookable offence, a second successive 'foul' on teenage striker Kluivert in the space of three minutes.

Yet in terms of clear-cut chances Gremio's Jardel was as guilty as Kluivert and Ajax's Finish international Jari Litmanen of missing a virtually open target more than once.

The result left South America leading Europe 33-21 in the annual match and 10-6 since it was switched to Tokyo's national stadium in 1980.

It was the third time since 1985 that the match was settled by penalties and the fifth occasion it needed extra-time. In 1988, PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands lost on penalties to Nacional of Uruguay after a 2-2 draw.

The victory finally rewarded the more enterprising side on a bitterly cold afternoon that had some Brazilian outfield players wearing gloves.

But when Kluivert missed Ajax's first penalty, the Dutch must have wondered if they would ever find the target after a string of misses during the 120 minutes' play, though the teenage striker saw his looping header rebound off the bar in the 74th minute.

Ajax appeared to have been lucky not to have Dutch international winger Marc Overmars sent off minutes after Rivarola's dismissal.

Overmars swung an arm in front of Arilson's face and the Gremio midfielder went down holding his mouth.

But English referee David Elleray, who had his back to the incident, simply went ahead with a free kick he had already awarded Gremio after consulting his linesman.

The match could have got out of hand at that point as the Brazilian side demanded Overmars be sent off, but Elleray's firm hand steered it away from trouble.

Near the end of a first half out almost exclusively in midfield, Kluivert should have done better with a header off a fine cross from the right by Nigerian Fendi George. But, trying to rise between two defenders, he headed well wide.

Ajax should have won the match in the second half.

Litmanen was too forceful with an attempted lob from the left and put the ball over early in the second half. Minutes later he found himself free right in front of goal but shot straight at Gremio goalkeeper Danlei.

At the other end, 10-man Gremio should have gone ahead minutes after Rivarola's departure but it was the Tall Jardel's turn to shoot wide from a good position.

Jardel also put a header from a cross by Paraguayan arce wide



Netherlands' Ajax MF Edgar Davids and Brazil's Gremio MR Arilson struggle for the ball in the World Club Cup match (Reuters photo)

after Danlei had saved from Kluivert who was fed by a near backheel from busy midfielder Edgar Davids.

Blind was the next to miss, his volley from a pass by substitute Nwankwo Kanu sailing high over the bar.

In the dying minutes of extra time, George curled a fine shot from the left out of the diving Danlei's reach and only just wide of the far post.

## Italian amateur banned until 21st century

POTENZA (R) — An Italian amateur soccer player has been banned until the year 2000 for repeatedly kicking a referee who showed him the red card.

Giovanni Pecoraro, who played for Real Calvello in a Basilicata local league in southern Italy, was banned on Monday after being sent off in the second half of a match against Pietrapertosa on November 19. Real Calvello lost 2-1.

The sporting judge's report, banning him until November 18, 2000, said the player had "first shouted abusive language at the referee and then kicked him repeatedly."

## Jansher keeps on winning

DOHA (R) — Jansher Khan, straight from winning the Pakistan Open on Sunday, opened his bid for a 71st international tournament title with a win over Australian Byron Davis in the first round of the Qatar International Squash Championship on Monday.

World champion Jansher, who boarded a plane immediately after his win in Karachi, has now played 16 matches in 19 days.

"I played straight through the World Open in Cyprus, the World Team Championship in Cairo and then at home in Pakistan," Jansher said after his 15-11 15-11 victory over qualifier Davis.

"I am feeling it all but I get a day of rest here before the second round so I should recover."

British champion Stephen Meads lost 8-15 15-13 11-15 15-12 in 86 minutes to South African qualifier Craig Wainman.

Dan Jensen, a young Australian ranked 33 in the

world, beat fifth seed Chris Walker of England 15-12 15-8.

"This is my best win yet," said Jensen, who was considered very unlucky not to make the Australian World Championship team in Cairo earlier this month.

Walker reached the Pakistan Open semifinals last week and took Jansher to five games in the Hong Kong open semifinals in September.

He had to wait until nearly midnight before his match and complained afterwards of feeling unwell.

Mark Chaboyer, who clinched the world team title for England in the deciding rubber of the final against Pakistan, added Zubeir Jahan.

Khan to his list of victims. Zubeir took a two-game lead and led 5-3 in the third.

But the young Englishman showed the nerve and courage of a seasoned professional as he gradually took command of the court and worked steadily to a 6-15 11-15 15-9 15-12 15-9 triumph.

## Magic nip Pistons as Hunter forgets score

ORLANDO (R) — Nick Anderson scored a season-high 31 points as the Orlando Magic edged the Pistons 96-95 Monday, thanks in part to Detroit guard Lindsey Hunter losing track of the score on the last play of the game.

Down 96-93 after Orlando's Joe Wolf made a foul shot with five seconds left, Hunter passed up a game-tying three-point attempt and inexplicably drove for a layup at the buzzer for the final margin.

"Well, we needed a three, that was obvious," Pistons coach Doug Collins said. "So we wanted to push the ball up and get a three. Lindsey just made a mistake and went to the basket. He's a young player and he just made a mistake."

"They jumped at me on the three," said the 24-year-old Hunter, a third-year pro. "I naturally reacted and went around. I just wasn't thinking."

Dennis Scott scored 18 points and Penny Hardaway added 16 as the Magic won their fifth straight and extended their home winning streak over Eastern Conference teams to 40.

Orlando, a league-best 12-2, remained unbeaten at home this season (9-0) and has won 16 straight regular-season games at the Orlando Arena, dating to last season.

Allan Houston and Terry Mills led the Pistons with 19 points each. Mills also had 10 rebounds and Hunter added 18 points for Detroit, which had a two-game win streak snapped.

Orlando, already without superstar center Shaquille O'Neal, played without forward Horace Grant, who missed the game with a sprained right ankle.

"I didn't think it was one of our better performances of the month," Magic coach Brian Hill said. "But playing short-handed and with Horace out, I've got to credit the guys."

In Toronto, Willie Anderson scored 26 points and Dan Majumdar made a key steal and layup in the



Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone (right) attempts to block Phoenix Suns guard Chris Carr's shot during first quarter action on Monday (Reuters photo)

final minute as the Raptors 101-98 to snap a two-game losing streak.

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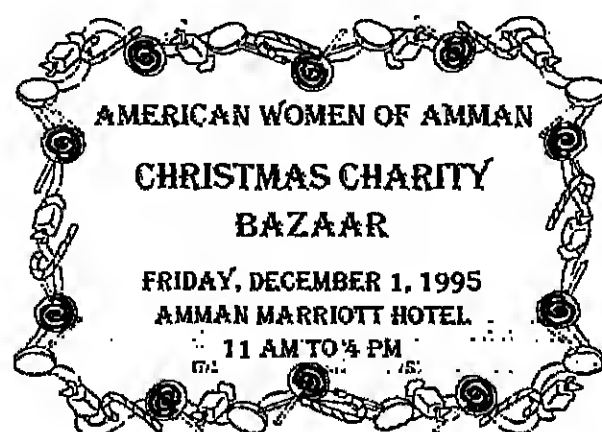
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## Vogts dreams of England — Germany final

LONDON (R) — German team chief Berti Vogts said on Monday an England — Germany final in next year's European Soccer Championship would be a dream come true.

Vogts, who replaced Franz Beckenhauer as German boss after the 1990 World Cup, arrived in England on Monday on a tour of hotels in preparation for next June's finals.

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Both vulnerable West deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 5

♥ A K Q 9

♦ A K

♣ Q J 7 4

WEST

♠ A K 9 3 2

♥ 7 6 4

♦ Q J 10

♣ K 8

EAST

♠ 6 4

♥ 8 6 2

♦ 9 7 5 4

♣ A 10 6 3 2

SOUTH

♠ Q J 10

♥ J 10 3

♦ 8 6 3 2

♣ A 9 5

WEST NORTH

1♠

2♦

3♥

4♠

5♠

6♠

7♠

8♠

9♠

10♠

11♠

12♠

ing lead, won in the closed hand. With the king of clubs marked with West for the opening bid, both declarers looked for greener pastures than a club finesse. They started by running four rounds of hearts.

At one table West discarded a diamond on the fourth heart. Declarer cashed the ace and king of diamonds, then threw West on lead with a spade. After taking four tricks in the suit, West was forced to lead away from the king of clubs into the combined major tenace to give declarer two tricks in the suit and the contract.

The other West saw the endplay looming and discarded the eight of clubs on the last heart. On the ace and king of diamonds West followed with the jack and queen. To declarer, it looked as if West's last six cards were four spades and K x of clubs, so South tried for the same endplay by exiting with a spade from dummy. A relieved West took four spades and a diamond to earn a just reward.

The three of spades was the open-

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**A Woman Who shook the Throne  
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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30  
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## Bosman ruling will not damage small clubs'

BRUSSELS (R) — Small soccer clubs will not suffer if the European Court of Justice accepts advice to outlaw the player transfer system, Belgian lawyer Jean-Luc Dupon said on Monday.

"Nobody is going to disappear," said Dupon, the lawyer for Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman who has asked the European Union's court of justice to declare European soccer's transfer system and limits on foreign players illegal.

"The court could decide on a transitional period (to a more open system) of five years," Dupon said at the end of a European Parliament convention on sport.

"An end to clubs organising the market would be best for everyone," he added.

Carl Otto Lenz, one of the European court's advocates-general (legal advisers), has recommended that the court rule the transfer system breaks EU law on freedom of movement for workers.

But UEFA, the sport's governing body in Europe, told the convention that Lenz's recommendations, if accepted by the court, could create a two-tier system of clubs.

Small clubs, which rely heavily on transfer payments, fear they will go under in a free market.

"Football is not just about the big clubs and the great stars but also about the thousands of clubs and the hundreds of thousands of players at every level across the length and breadth of the continent," the presidents of the 49 national soccer associations in UEFA said in a letter.

The letter dismissed Lenz's proposal of safeguarding smaller clubs by redistributing a percentage of all clubs' income.

"(The advocate-general's) proposed alternative — that funds should be redistributed with nothing in return — is simply unworkable," it said.

Monday's convention had no legal bearing on the court decision, which is expected early next year.

Bosman's case began in 1990 when FC Liege of Belgium blocked his proposed transfer to French club Dunkirk.

Liege later suspended Bosman who is now seeking damages of about \$1 million from UEFA and the Belgian soccer union, claiming he was unofficially blacklisted after starting the court case.

FIFA has expressed concern that European Union countries would be left out of step with the rest of the world if the European court accepted Lenz's advice.

## France's Tapie given jail term

DOUAI, France (R) — A French appeals court sentenced ex-Marseille soccer boss Bernard Tapie on Tuesday to eight months in prison with another 16 months suspended and declared him ineligible for public office for three years.

The sentence, on charges of match-rigging and interfering with witnesses, was the first prison term confirmed against the ex-cabinet minister who has been declared bankrupt and faces a host of other lawsuits over his collapsed business empire.

But Tapie, who has said he was terrified of going to prison, immediately made a new appeal to the supreme court (cour de cassation) that will put off any jail term. Legal sources said the court would take between eight and 18 months to rule.

The flamboyant Tapie, who has denied rigging the 1993 game between his former European champion club Marseille and Valenciennes, joked as he entered the court, in the northern town of Douai. But he was grim as he left.

"I believe everyone will judge what eight months in prison mean compared with 250,000 francs (\$50,000) given for a soccer game without my knowledge," he said. His lawyer appealed

against the verdict on technicalities.

His immunity from jail as a member of the French national assembly will be lifted automatically if the supreme court confirms the verdict. But it was not immediately clear if his immunity as a member of the European Parliament could still protect him.

The delay could allow Tapie to turn to his next project — starring in a film by prize-winning director Claude Lelouch.

The court handed Jacques Mellick, Tapie's former colleague in a socialist-led cabinet, a one-year suspended jail sentence and declared him ineligible for public office for two years.

Mellick was convicted of lying to provide Tapie with an alibi from accusations that he interfered with a witness to cover up the match-rigging scandal.

Tapie had been sentenced by a lower court to a year in jail with another year suspended for bribing players of rival league team Valenciennes to lose a game shortly before Marseille was to face AC Milan in the 1993 European Cup final.

Marseille won both games 1-0. The scandal heralded the downfall of both Tapie, who has been declared bankrupt,



Bernard Tapie, former French businessman and politician, looks at his watch as he leaves the appeals court of Douai, Northern France on Thursday. Tapie received a sentence of eight months in jail (Reuters photo).

and Marseille who have been downgraded to the second division.

Justice has not finished with the rags-to-riches-to-rags Tapie, once a protégé of socialist former President Francois Mitterrand and who was cited as an example of an

enterprising spirit for young people.

He faces more lawsuits for fraud and tax evasion in connection with his collapsed business empire, and a probe into slush funds allegedly used by Marseille to rig other games.

## Tunisia top African soccer

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Monthly African soccer rankings released by the International Football Federation (FIFA).

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Tunisia     | 11. Senegal      |
| 2. Egypt       | 12. Guinea       |
| 3. Nigeria     | 13. South Africa |
| 4. Ghana       | 14. Zimbabwe     |
| 5. Ivory Coast | 15. Gabon        |
| 6. Zambia      | 16. Zaire        |
| 7. Morocco     | 17. Sierra Leone |
| 8. Cameroon    | 18. Uganda       |
| 9. Algeria     | 19. Tanzania     |
| 10. Mali       | 20. Mozambique   |



Oakland Raiders quarterback Vince Evans in the first half of their NFL game in San Diego tries to recover his composure after being sacked by San Diego Chargers Leslie O'Neal. (Reuters photo)

## Chargers win field-goal battle

SAN DIEGO (R) — John Carney kicked four field goals and Dwayne Harper had three interceptions as the San Diego Chargers defeated the Oakland Raiders 12-6 Monday in the first NFL game without a touchdown in more than a year.

Carney booted field goals of 39, 24, 28, and 38 yards as the Chargers (5-7) handed the Raiders (8-4) a rare Monday night loss.

Oakland, which played without starting quarterback Jeff Hostetler, fell two games behind the Kansas City Chiefs in the AFC Western Division.

The last NFL contest in which neither team reached the end zone was November 20, 1994, when the Arizona Cardinals edged the Philadelphia Eagles 12-6.

Harper joined Stevon Moore as the only players with three interceptions in a game this season. The record is four, last done by Kansas City's Deron Cherry in 1985.

Oakland's offense, led by 40-year-old Vince Evans, entered the game averaging 367 yards per game but committed four second-half turnovers and was limited to 285 yards.

LONDON (AFP) — Eric Cantona refound his scoring boots to salvage a point for Manchester United at a frenzied City Ground, but Newcastle were the night's only winners.

Frank Clark's men looked to be hanging on for three points after 20-year-old Paul McGregor marked his full debut with a dream goal in the 19th minute.

United had wasted a catalogue of chances, with Andy Cole and Ryan Giggs — who hit the post when clean through — the most culpable. But in the 67th minute Cantona, who had gone six

games without scoring — the worst spell of his United career — since returning after his enforced nine-month absence with a spot-kick equaliser against Liverpool, repeated the dose.

It was the Frenchman who was felled from behind by Steve Chettle after he seemed to have lost control of a pass by substitute Paul Scholes.

Forest protested furiously when referee Keith Cooper instantly pointed to the spot, but the Scottish defender had undoubtedly made contact and Cantona ignored the jeers to stroke confidently

home.

Scholes and Andy Cole for United, and Ian Woan, Colin Cooper and substitute Richard Irving for Forest, could have won it before the end. But the home side's defensive resilience meant they at least deserved to extend their unbeaten home league run to 15 games, while United were more than worth a draw.

United's one-touch interplay left Forest chasing shadows, and after Nicky Butt fired just wide Cole should have put them ahead in the 10th minute.

Butt linked with Ryan

Giggs — operating, like Cantona, with a roving brief — and his perfectly-weighted pass found Cole's angled run, the 7 million man failing to beat Mark Crossley.

After that start it was something of a surprise to see Forest go ahead with their first real attack.

United went to sleep as Cooper carried the ball forward after a free-kick, and somehow allowed his pass to reach Howe via two pairs of legs.

Gary Pallister, at least, was alive to the danger, but although he slid in to deny

Howe a shot it fell perfectly for McGregor to side-foot home from 12 yards.

McGregor, who came off the bench to score Forest's UEFA Cup winner against Lyon last week, might have had a second 12 minutes later, meeting a driven free-kick Stuart Pearce but heading just too high, before United picked up the baton again.

Cantona volleyed wide after a delightful flick by David Beckham left Pearce a spectator and then shot outside the other post, before the best opening of the half went begging.

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## 'Aqaba suffered more from the media than the quake'

### Untrue reports of damage cut deep into tourism business, hoteliers complain

By Amy Henderson  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AQABA — Tourists mill around, the port is as busy as ever, shops are open and business is as usual in Aqaba, six days after a strong earthquake epicentred about 110 kilometres into the Red Sea from here that shook the Middle East from Lebanon to Sudan.

Damage in Aqaba wrought by the earthquake was minimal compared to the quake's magnitude — in Aqaba measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale — and was grossly exaggerated, Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib said.

"Aqaba was the least affected to the region," Mr. Khatib said. The centre of the quake was far

from most populated areas in the region.

Since the quake, rumours have abounded concerning the extent of damage, but both Mr. Khatib and Aqaba Regional Authority President Fayez Khasawneh said that the reaction was over-exaggerated.

"The panic and fear among citizens wasn't justified," said Mr. Khasawneh, "but they also weren't able to get adequate information. The Israelis were transmitting live and direct (from Eilat), where things were much worse, so people were making assumptions."

The areas most affected were low areas close to the beach, he added, which naturally includes several hotels, and excludes most residential areas. "Bot

even (in areas near the beach) damage was mild and most was non-structural — fallen panels and broken glass. The sand and water helped absorb a great deal of the shock."

"We did not find any homes that needed to be evacuated," he said.

Public facilities such as water and electric supply were not disrupted by the quake; nor were the thermal power plant or fertilizer complex damaged, which are designed with a mechanism to shut down automatically during such a situation.

"These were the things that posed the most imminent danger," Mr. Khasawneh said. "If the Dist (water) line had broken, the damages caused by it would have far exceeded that caused by the earthquake

itself."

The series and intensity of the aftershocks that followed the quake were "comforting," Mr. Khasawneh added, because it showed that the stored energy being dissipated was up to three times the energy dissipated between 1969 and 1995.

A main concern is Aqaba was the earthquake's effect on the tourism industry, the town's mainstay. This is the first year since the Gulf crisis most hoteliers would start the low season without a loss, said Simoo Khouri, proprietor of Aquamarina I, II and III, but the "bad advertising" in the press has put them back to square one.

Aqaba hoteliers assailed the press for exaggerating the situation, frightening

not only residents of the town but also tourists.

"The damage that we sustained from poor media coverage outweighs that which we sustained from the actual quake," said Abdul Aziz Kabariti, manager of the Coral Beach Hotel, who spoke to journalists on behalf of Aqaba's hoteliers.

He added that he intended to sue local papers for reporting that his hotel had suffered the greatest damage. "I have superficial damage," he said, pointing to vertical cracks in the Coral Beach dining room. "Some glass was broken and some marble tiles fell off the wall, but (there was) no structural damage."

"The problem is that we've had cancellations," he said. "We had an Australian charter cancel be-

cause it was reported that 50 per cent of the beds in Aqaba were (not available) because of the quake."

Among the Aquamarina hotels, Mr. Khouri said that at the outset of the first half of low season (Nov. 20-Dec. 20), he had 45-55 per cent reservations in his hotels, but since the earthquake, one hotel has dropped to 12 per cent. "I don't think our hotels will reach 25 per cent (capacity) next month."

Mr. Khouri said that he estimates physical damage to his hotels at JD 150,000, but puts his loss of business as a result of cancellations through February at JD 500,000.

"All these tourists are rerouted to Amman," he said. "So Jordan doesn't lose, but Aqaba does."

According to Mr. Kabar-

iti, only two hotels in Aqaba have been closed down. The Aqaba Hotel has closed 12-14 rooms, but its chalets remain open, and the Miramar closed after an exterior staircase pulled pipes and electric wiring away from the building.

The swimming pool and nightclub at Aquamarina I, which extends over the water, maintained damage caused from water pressure underneath the structures, but the hotel remains open.

"Hotels in Aqaba, by law, are built to withstand a (quake of a) magnitude of at least seven," he said.

The last major earthquake and the first scientifically recorded geophysical movement in the region struck the area in July 1927. It measured 6 on the Richter scale.

## Ekeus reports progress in Iraq mission

BAGHDAD (R) — United Nations arms control envoy Rolf Ekeus said on Tuesday he had made some progress in a second round of technical talks with Iraq on getting a full accounting of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Ekeus, head of U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), told reporters in Baghdad in his second day of a visit here that his talks "centred on technical issues in all weapons areas."

"I think that there has been some good progress today," he declined to elaborate.

He said he is going to meet Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz later on Tuesday for a third round of talks.

Mr. Ekeus, a former Swedish diplomat, held a second round of talks with Oil Minister Amer Rasheed.

He said he would stay on in Iraq as long as necessary, but UN sources said he could leave as early as Wednesday.

Mr. Ekeus arrived in the Iraqi capital on Monday saying he would discuss "all files" — nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons as well as ballistic missiles — on his latest mission.

He is preparing his December report on Iraq's disarmament for the U.N. Security Council, which decides whether to maintain or lift economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Last week he said Baghdad had declared that the weapons of mass destruction "were destroyed secretly" — however, he has no proof that these weapons have been destroyed.

Mr. Ekeus has accused Baghdad of hiding part of its germ warfare and chemical weapons arsenal as well as of resuming imports of equipment to make missiles but without informing UN experts.

Under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait, Iraq must destroy its nuclear, biological, chemical and long-range ballistic weapons, and hand over all details about them before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Mr. Ekeus last week toured Gulf Arab states partly to raise funds for UNSCOM, which risks running out of money by early next year. He described the tour "as helpful for all, including for Iraq," but declined to elaborate.

At its regular review earlier this month, the Security Council maintained sanctions after Mr. Ekeus issued a report in October accusing Baghdad of hiding information.



ARAFAT MEETS BARAK: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the new Israeli foreign minister, Ehud Barak, meet early Tuesday at Barcelona's Ray Juan Carlos Hotel in their first encounter after Mr. Barak was appointed foreign minister on Thursday. Both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Barak were attending the European-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona that ended on Wednesday (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Egyptians go to polls today amid opposition complaints of abuses

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian opposition and human rights activists complained on Tuesday of serious abuses likely to ensure the ruling party a sweeping victory when Egyptians vote for a new parliament on Wednesday.

Government ministers have repeatedly promised the elections will be free and fair but ministries have for weeks been using the state media to trumpet the achievements of President Hosni Mubarak, head of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).

Police have arrested election agents and the government has rejected any form of external monitoring or any procedure to prevent the traditional practice of stuffing ballot boxes with unused votes at the end of the day.

Hisham Mubarak, a human rights activist and member of a newly created local committee to monitor elections, said that reports his group has received from several constituencies in Cairo proved violations in the registration of voters.

"In several cases, we found omissions of voters who were registered in several polling stations, something which only NDP candidates could do because of their influence on local officials," he added.

The supreme administrative court rejected on Monday an appeal by the government against an earlier ruling cancelling the registration of 13,518 out-of-town voters in one Cairo district where a minister is running as a candidate.

Opposition parties say this case, where the new voters were registered en masse within one month, was only the tip of an iceberg and the same has taken place elsewhere.

Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Mamoun Al Hodeibi said police were conducting "mass arrests against our delegates who were to have observed the election count."

The arrests "prove that the government wants to cheat in the elections," Mr. Hodeibi said.

He said 600 Brotherhood delegates had been detained in various regions across Egypt while others had fled their homes to escape police.

"It seems the government decided to cheat against our candidates because it knows that we constitute the main political opposition force," said Mr. Hodeibi, who is himself running in the vote.

The Brotherhood and its ally, the Labour Party, have a total of 244 candidates in the race, according to a latest count.

Adding candidates from the Liberal Party, with which the two groups are cooperating, there are some 307 members of the Islamic trend running for the 444 seats in parliament.

"We represent for the government a real danger because if we have 150 delegates (in parliament), they will have to take care. But if we're only 10, that won't bother them much," Mr. Hodeibi said.

But Mr. Hodeibi refused to speculate on the outcome of Wednesday's elections, saying: "I can't predict anything because that depends on the extent of the fraud."

"If none of our candidates is elected that would mean the fraud was 100 per cent."

The Egyptian government has turned down several demands by international and local groups to monitor the elections, the fourth since President Mubarak came to power in 1981.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi told the government newspaper Al Ahram on Tuesday international monitoring would violate Egyptian sovereignty. The judiciary supervised the elections, so there was no need for local monitoring, he said.

But Ibrahim Abaza, assistant secretary-general of the liberal Wafd Party, disputed

this claim.

He said that out of 27,000 polling stations, judges would be present in only 1,800 main ones, while the rest would be under the control of police.

"This is where most of the rigging takes place, and not in main stations," he said.

"It makes no sense to talk of sovereignty, because the government itself has sent observers to monitor elections in South Africa, Algeria and Tanzania. So, why do we accept monitoring there and not in our own country?" he added.

Abdul Hamid Al Ghazali, a Muslim Brotherhood candidate in Cairo, said the low turnout in cities also opened the door wide for the practice of ballot rigging.

In major cities the turnout has never exceeded 20 per cent, and since the law does not require voters to sign their names after voting, it will be easy for the election officers, under NDP pressure, to vote for those who do not show up, he said.

"Egypt is one of the few places where the dead and absent can vote. When there is nobody around, simply put a tick in front of the name and a ballot paper in the box. This way the turnout goes up and the same for the NDP votes," Mr. Ghazali said.

The information centre of Egyptian terrorists is located in Britain," General Alfi told the government daily Al Ahram.

"These terrorists are active on British soil where they hold meetings and give orders for missions. They are continually moving in and out of London and all the attacks have been planned from outside," Egypt, Gen. Alfi said.

He repeated a warning to countries harbouring fugitive militants, saying: "These countries will be burned by the fire of terrorism, just as some of them already have been."

He called on the world community to "address decisively these murderous mercenaries who threaten mankind."

"I do not believe the world community can accept considering a murderer as a political refugee," Gen. Alfi said, referring to the political asylum Egypt says some militants enjoy in Europe.

The group's original leaders, Mr. Madaoui and Mr. Belhadj, have been in jail in Algeria since 1992, although the authorities have opened political contacts with them in prison.

elections the authorities scrapped when they looked poised to win, starting the conflict. Mr. Kebir is the group's spokesman in Europe.

Mr. Kebir sent a letter to Mr. Zeroual shortly after he was elected addressing him as "Mr. President," an apparent recognition of the legitimacy of the elections.

FIS leaders inside Algeria have said they are considering a unilateral truce in the fighting against the government.

But analysts say it is not clear if the group's political leaders still control militant guerrillas. Since 1992, FIS has also been eclipsed in the fighting by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

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## '11th-hour shift in security cost Rabin his life'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A last-minute change to security plans may have allowed the assassin of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to get within inches of his target on the night of the murder, the Jerusalem Report said Tuesday.

The state inquiry set up after the murder to investigate security failings by the Shin Bet internal security services will have to find out whether Mr. Rabin was left with only two bodyguards because the others were still waiting in the crowds.

Organisers said the original plan was to let Mr. Rabin and former Foreign Minister Shimon Peres mingle among the crowd at the Tel Aviv peace rally on Nov. 4, according to the magazine.

But it was changed at the last minute because the 100,000-strong crowd was too large and unnamed security officials thought it would be too dangerous, said the magazine which appears every two weeks.

Instead Mr. Peres descended the stage first virtually unprotected and Mr. Rabin followed with only two bodyguards.

Assassin Yigal Amir fired three bullets at the late prime minister, two of which hit him, while the third struck a bodyguard.

He had mingled near to Mr. Rabin's car pretending to be among the security party, and then tried to confuse police by shouting that the shots were blanks.

Police meanwhile pulled in a third rabbi for questioning on Tuesday in investigations into the assassination.

Rabbi Nahum Rabinovitch from the Maale Adumim settlement just east of Jerusalem was told to report to Petah Tikva police station.

Police said he was sus-

pected of giving his blessing to Mr. Rabin's murder, by referring to obsolete Jewish edicts, for "selling off" "Greater Israel."

Under the first decree known as "din rodef" it is considered self-defence to kill a tyrant threatening the Jewish people.

The second known as "din moser" authorises the murder of anyone endangering the Jews by giving outsiders information of Jewish property.

But Mr. Rabinovitch denied having issued the edicts and told journalists Mr. Rabin's murder had been "an extremely serious set."

In the past he called on settlers to "place mines under Israeli army convoys if they are called on to dismantle the Jewish settlements" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Two other rabbis, Shmuel Dvir, from Karmel Tzur settlement in the West Bank, and David Kav, from Ashdod, south of Tel Aviv, have already been questioned twice on Sunday and Monday following Mr. Rabin's assassination.

Assassin Amir, and his brother Hagai, who is suspected of complicity in the 4 killing, have said they were "very influenced" by rabbis before the murder.

Police also released three members of the right-wing Eyal group to which Amir had links. They had been held for taking part in a bizarre televised initiation ceremony on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Arieh Orange, 20, from Jerusalem, Eran Ozaviv, 23, from Hehroo and Moshe Herenfeld, 18, from Haifa where placed under house arrest and hauled from speaking to journalists after being held for seven days.

## HQ of militants is in England - Alfi

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt stepped up its criticism of Britain on Tuesday as Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi said in an interview that London was home to the headquarters of Egyptian extremists.

"The information centre of Egyptian terrorists is located in Britain," General Alfi told the government daily Al Ahram.

"These terrorists are active on British soil where they hold meetings and give orders for missions. They are continually moving in and out of London and all the attacks have been planned from outside," Egypt, Gen. Alfi said.

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for international cooperation against terrorism since the Nov. 19 bombing of its embassy in Pakistan, which left 17 dead and more than 60 injured.

Gen. Alfi pointed a finger at Britain for the first time on Thursday, accusing it of harbouring two of the seven top leaders of the armed Jihad group and giving political asylum to one of them.

On Monday Al Ahram said Britain had become the "land of asylum" for militants, listing six reported to be residing there.

"Egyptian officials have held meetings with their counterparts in various countries and we gave them the information we have," Gen.

The minister also lashed out at the Muslim Brotherhood, accusing them of implication in the Pakistan bombing.

"They claim to be innocent. But in reality it's quite the opposite and their actions prove it. Does Islam permit, for example, the crime in Pakistan?" he said.

"According to the information we have, the Brotherhood is behind all the terrorist movements in Egypt and in several Arab countries," Gen. Alfi said.

## Indian government asked to explain mail delays

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — If Americans think their postal system is "snail mail," consider this: Millions of letters mailed in April in India still have not been delivered. A strike by thousands of postal sorters working in trains that carry the mail has delayed delivery across the nation. Mail hags have piled up at post offices and people are seething with rage. One of them has filed a public interest lawsuit in the New Delhi High Court. After a hearing Monday, the court demanded an explanation from postal authorities within two weeks. In April, the government stopped paying overtime to postal workers, which led to the backlog. Greetings mailed in October during the major Hindu festival of Diwali are still lying in sacks. The mountain of mail is expected to grow higher with Christmas around the corner.

Teachers injured in tussle over outdoor toilet

BEIJING (AP) — Farmers and teachers came to blows recently in a feud over an outdoor latrine next to a preschool near the east-central city of Nanking. Li Shilong, brother Li Shishen and his son, who was not named, allegedly attacked the women teachers on Nov. 17 after they tried to prevent the men from digging the outdoor toilet just five metres from their school, the newspaper Xinhua Daily said in a report seen in Beijing Tuesday. Such latrines, common in the Chinese countryside, generally are just pits in the ground surrounded by low walls and the teachers feared their charges might wander inside and get hurt. The report said that three of the teachers involved in the fracas were still hospitalised more than two weeks after the attack with broken bones and internal injuries.

China to ban market cheats' lever scales

BEIJING (R) — A 2,500 year-old tradition will come to an end in the Chinese capital this week when a law banning the use of lever scales takes effect, kicking off a nationwide drive, the China Daily said Tuesday. The ancient scale, a long graduated sock suspended from a string with a basket at one end and a sliding weight at the other, is widely used in free markets — and has long been used to cheat customers who cannot easily monitor how it works. Some consumers have fought back by carrying their own pocket spring scales when shopping in street markets. Responding to consumer complaints, officials vowed in 1994 to replace the lever scale with state-approved electrical balance and spring scales within three years to standardise market practices, the newspaper said.

Indiana woman gives birth to quintuplets

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — It's a boy and a girl ... And a girl ... And a girl ... And yes, another girl. Connie Loisch delivered the quintuplets after taken fertility drugs. She gave birth three months early. The mother and newborns were "doing well," Dr. Lynda Smirz said. The father, Jan Loisch, said he was relieved: "It all became a reality when I heard my first baby girl cry." The Loischs already have one son.

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